This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

https://books.google.com

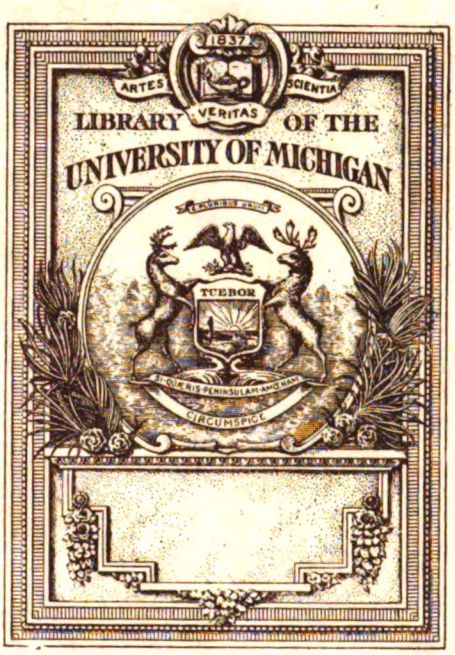
B
627
G3
G7
1916b
STORAGE
1 0 8

C 377702 DUPL

Gt. Brit. Foreign office.

Further correspondence with the U.S. ambassador.

Digitized by Google



THE GIFT OF
Sir Gilbert Parker

Digitized by Google

D
627
.G3
G7
1916

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

UNIV. C
LIB

MISCELLANEOUS. No. 26 (1916).

Gt. Brit Foreign office

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

WITH THE

UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR

RESPECTING

THE TREATMENT OF BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR AND INTERNED CIVILIANS IN GERMANY.

[In continuation of "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)": Cd. 8235.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August 1916.

LONDON:
PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
BY HARRISON AND SONS, 45-47, ST. MARTIN'S LANE, W.C.,
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HIS MAJESTY.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, 29, BREAMS BUILDINGS, FETTER LANE, E.C., and
28, ABINGDON STREET, S.W., and 54, ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF; or
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE (SCOTTISH BRANCH), 23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH; or
E. PONSONBY, LIMITED, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,
the United States of America and other Foreign Countries of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LIMITED, LONDON, W.C.

1916.

[Cd. 8297.] *Price* 6*d*.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	To Mr. Page	Mar. 29, 1916	Asks that camp at Müncheberg may be visited, as conditions in regard to food, &c., are said to be very unsatisfactory	1
2	Mr. Page	31,	Transmits report on camp at Wünsdorf (Zossen), where British Indian prisoners of war are interned...	1
3	„ „	Apr. 1,	Report of visit to detention camp at Spandau ...	2
4	„ „	4,	Transmits reports on camps at Crefeld and Münster (Westphalia)	4
5	To Mr. Page	7,	Thanks for No. 2	7
6	„ „	10,	Thanks for No. 4	8
7	„ „	10,	Thanks for No. 3	8
8	Mr. Page	11,	Transmits reports on camps at Cottbus, Gorlitz, Sagan, Sprottau, Neuhammer (Queis), and to the lazarets in Hamburg	8
9	„ „	12,	Transmits reports on lazarets at Münster and Crefeld, to camps at Werl and Dülmen, and to Sennelager camp and lazarets	12
10	„ „	18,	No reply yet received from German Government regarding camps at Gnadenfrei and Neisse ...	16
11	„ „	18,	Refers to No. 1. Understands there are no British prisoners at present at Müncheberg, but if this is incorrect, camp will be visited in the early future	17
12	To Mr. Page	19,	Thanks for No. 8	17
13	„ „	20,	Thanks for No. 9. Hopes certain improvements will shortly be introduced at Werl and Dülmen	18
14	Mr. Page	25,	All the camps mentioned in German Foreign Office's list have been visited by American Embassy, with exception of Altengrabow and Bad Colberg, both of which will be inspected very shortly	18
15	„ „	May 1,	Transmits report on camp at Altengrabow ...	19
16	„ „	2,	Refers to No. 11. Transmits report on camp at Müncheberg	21
17	„ „	2,	Transmits report on camp near Minden, where are 301 British non-commissioned officers ...	23
18	To Mr. Page	8,	Thanks for No. 16	25
19	„ „	8,	Refers to No. 10. Asks that attention of German Government may again be called to complaints regarding camps at Gnadenfrei and Neisse	25
20	„ „	8,	Thanks for No. 15	25
21	„ „	8,	Thanks for No. 17. Trusts an improvement may be made as regards air, light, exercise, &c. ...	25
22	Mr. Page	8,	German Government's reply regarding conditions at Gnadenfrei and Neisse	26

Digitized by Google

No.	Name.	Date.	Subject.	Page
23	Mr. Page	May 10, 1916	Transmits report on prisoners of war camp at Dyrotz	27
24	Mr. Page	16,	Transmits report on camp at Wünsdorf (Zossen)	29
25	To Mr. Page	18,	Thanks for No. 23	31
26	„ „	23.	Thanks for No. 24	32
27	Mr. Page	23,	Transmits report on camp at Parchim	32
28	To Mr. Page	30,	Thanks for No. 27	34
29	Mr. Page	30,	Camp at Hameln has been inspected	34
30	„ „	30,	Transmits reports of visits to Burg and Magdeburg	36
31	To Mr. Page	June 7,	Thanks for No. 29	37
32	Mr. Page	7,	Transmits reports of visits to Festungsgefängnis and lazarets in Cologne and Wesel	37
33	„ „	7,	Transmits reports on camps at Erfurt and Langensalza	40
34	„ „	7,	Transmits reports on Neisse and Gnadenfrei (Silesia)...	44
35	„ „	13,	Report on food supplied to prisoners of war at Schneidemühl	46
36	„ „	13,	Transmits report on camp at Neu-Strelitz ...	48
37	To Mr. Page	15,	Thanks for No. 32	49
38	„ „	15,	Thanks for No. 34	50
39	„ „	16,	Thanks for No. 36	50
40	„ „	16,	Thanks for No. 35	50
41	Mr. Page	20,	Transmits reports on working camp at Treuenbrietzen and officers' camps at Mainz, Friedberg, and Blankenburg	51
42	To Mr. Page	26,	Thanks for No. 41	55
43	Mr. Page	27,	Transmits report on officers' camp at Colberg (Saxe-Meiningen)...	56
44	„ „	28,	Transmits report on camp at Brandenburg, where nine British seamen (civilians) are interned ...	57
45	To Mr. Page	30,	Thanks for No. 44. Asks reason for isolation of these nine prisoners and for non-receipt of parcels and letters	58
46	„ „	July 3,	Thanks for No. 43	59

Digitized by Google

Further Correspondence with the United States Ambassador respecting the Treatment of British Prisoners of War and Interned Civilians in Germany.

[In continuation of "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)" : Cd. 8235.]

No. 1.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page, United States Ambassador at London.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to state that His Majesty's Government is in receipt of information to the effect that British prisoners of war have recently been interned in a new camp at Müncheberg, where the conditions in regard to food, accommodation, &c., are very unsatisfactory.

Sir E. Grey will be greatly obliged if the attention of the United States Ambassador at Berlin can be drawn to this report, and if his Excellency can be requested to be good enough to arrange for this camp to be visited at as early a date as may be found convenient.

Foreign Office, March 29, 1916.

No. 2.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 1.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 24th instant, enclosing a copy of a report on the camp at Wünsdorf, Zossen, where British-Indian prisoners of war are interned.

American Embassy, London, March 31, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 2.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, March* 24, 1916.

REFERRING to my letter of the 8th July, 1915, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a report of another visit which was made by Mr. Jackson yesterday to the camp at Wünsdorf, Zossen, where British-Indian prisoners of war are interned.

I have, &c.

(For the Ambassador),

JOHN B. JACKSON.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 2 in No. 2.

Report of Visit to Detention Camp at Wünsdorf (Zossen).

SINCE my visit to this camp on the 7th July, 1915, between 200 and 300 British-Indian prisoners, most of whom were captured last September, had been brought to it. There are now present two Ghurka, one Sikh, and four Mahommedan officers. The Sikh, whom I saw recently at Weilburg, and three or four other Indian officers from other camps are expected to arrive next week. One officer (Prem Singh) has died in the camp, and also fifty men, principally Hindus and principally owing to tuberculosis. Twenty-nine men were in the hospital to-day with colds, fever, or tuberculosis, and a separate room in the camp itself is occupied by twelve men who have trachoma. The officers live in rooms apart from the men, each race being separated. Six barrack buildings are occupied by the men, three by Ghurkas (325), and one each by Sikhs (109), Mahommedans (100), and Thakurs, Hindus (63). In the men's barracks two-tier wooden bedsteads have now been built. The barracks are quite dry and well heated. A part of the Mahommedan barrack is still reserved as a place for prayer, but the Mahommedans are at liberty to go to the mosque in the so-called "Halb-Mond Lager" and to perform their religious ablutions daily. All the prisoners are given an opportunity to bathe once a week, and are compelled to go through the disinfecting process once a fortnight.

The Indians are not called upon to perform any work outside the camp. They are occasionally taken for walks in the neighbouring woods, and are permitted to play games, especially football. On the 21st March the Hindus had celebrated their religious festival (Vernal Equinox) with native games and dances.

During my visit to the camp I was accompanied by the commandant, the officer in charge, and the German interpreter (N.C.O.) previously mentioned, and the English-speaking Ghurka sergeant whom I met on former visits. The commandant said that the Indians were very well behaved and that no disciplinary measures had had to be taken. The prisoners said that the treatment was "very good," and they expressed themselves as entirely satisfied with their food (mutton once a week, rice, fresh vegetables, bread, &c., which they prepare themselves) and with the existing general arrangements. A large number of parcels have been received by the men who were in the camp last July, and parcels for those who were captured more recently have begun to arrive. All had sufficient warm clothing, and all seemed to be in good spirits.

There are no longer any British prisoners in the "Weinberg" camp at Zossen, that camp being now reserved for Russian Mahommedans, as the "Halb-Mond" camp is for French.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

March 23, 1916.

No. 3.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 3.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 24th ultimo, referring to Sir Edward Grey's note of the 21st February,* and enclosing a copy of a report made by Mr. Jackson of a visit made on the 24th March to places in Spandau where British prisoners of war are to be found.

American Embassy, London, April 1, 1916.

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)," No. 62.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, March* 24, 1916.

WITH reference to your Embassy's communication of the 22nd ultimo, enclosing a copy of the British Foreign Office's note of the 21st February, I have the honour to enclose a copy of a report made by Mr. Jackson of a visit made by him to-day to places in Spandau where British prisoners of war are to be found.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador)
JOHN B. JACKSON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

Report of Visit to Detention Camp at Spandau, March 24, 1916.

AT the chemical works in Spandau there are now only about forty-five British prisoners of war employed, most if not all of whom belonged to the Royal Naval Brigade, and have been at work here since last August. The soldiers who had been sent here later, and whom I saw on the occasion of my previous visit on the 2nd February, have now been sent to another working camp, as friction had developed between them and the sailors, and as they did not give satisfaction as labourers. The men said that, so far as they are aware, their work has nothing to do with "munitions." They now occupy their new quarters in the first floor of the brick building which I mentioned in my former report (Russians sent to replace the soldiers are on the ground floor), which is much cleaner than their former quarters, and well lighted and ventilated. The men sleep in wooden bedsteads in two tiers. On the ground floor there is a messroom, which men off duty are allowed to use during the day, and in which they are permitted to smoke. On the wall hangs a painting of the Union Jack and other patriotic emblems. The men said that the food supplied was not bad, but that they lived to a great extent upon that which was sent them from home. A gas stove has been put up in the mess-room, which they use to cook their own food. They are at liberty to bathe and wash (warm water) at will, and no complaint was made in regard to the latrine or sanitary arrangements. The men looked in good physical condition and seemed in good spirits. The promised field in which to exercise has been opened for them and is being prepared for use. A football is being sent them by the Embassy.

The men complained of having only one Sunday off every fortnight, but the manager said that this could not be altered (the German employés work in the same way) without deranging the whole of the work. As I understand the case, the men who knock off work on Saturday night do not go on again until Monday night, once every four weeks, when the shifts are changed.

The only other complaint made by the men was that all the loaves of bread sent them from England recently had been cut open by the parcel-censor, and that in consequence some of them had become mildewed. On speaking of this to the German officer in charge, I was given to understand that this measure had been taken because of instances where contraband articles had been smuggled in in the loaves, and I was told that attention would be paid to the complaint, and it would be remedied if practicable.

I was told that there are at present no other British prisoners employed in any working party in Spandau.

One man whom I had seen when I first visited the chemical works, and who complained of a "bad leg" at that time, was moved about five weeks ago to the Reserve Lazaret II, where he is in a ward with several Russian prisoners of war. He said that the treatment and food are good, and he is, of course, permitted to receive his own parcels from home. His condition has improved, and he is soon to be sent back to Döberitz or to some open-air working camp. He said that his trouble dated from childhood, that he had concealed it when he volunteered, and that it had always returned when he was unable to spend a good part of the time in the open air. In the works the air was not pure, and he had often got overheated.

Captain Coulston had returned to the officers' camp at Blankenburg some time ag and there are no other British prisoners in the Spandau hospitals.

JOHN B. JACKSON

Digitized by Google

No. 4.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April* 5.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith enclosed a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 28th ultimo, transmitting copies of reports of visits made to military camps at Crefeld and Münster (Westphalia).

American Embassy, London, April 4, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, March* 28, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to send you herewith enclosed in triplicate reports, dated the 24th March, 1916, of visits made by Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel to military camps at Crefeld and Münster (Westphalia). These visits were made in each case without previous announcement, and opportunity was freely given to converse with the prisoners in private.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
JOHN B. JACKSON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

Report of Visit by Mr. Dresel to Officers' Detention Camp at Crefeld.

THIS camp, visited on the present occasion on Sunday, the 19th March, 1916, was described in previous reports of the 10th April, and the 21st October, 1915.*

Since the latter statement there have been a few changes in the list of officers, noted on a list which is hereto attached. At present 173 British officers and approximately 40 British orderlies are detained in the camp. Both classes are now quartered apart from prisoners of other nationalities. The officers' rooms are all adequate, and have been comfortably, and even in some cases attractively, arranged by the prisoners themselves; a few of those, occupied by junior officers, are somewhat, but not unreasonably, crowded. In order to secure privacy and better ventilation, some of the younger officers have, by an ingenious arrangement of red cloth curtains, partitioned off spaces in the corridors under the windows, where, in spite of the noise, they prefer to sleep.

The walks on parole, which have lately been arranged, have been entirely successful. The officers go out in sufficient numbers to allow each officer two walks a week. The only complaint as to these was that the German, accompanying the party, was a non-commissioned instead of a regular officer. This will, however, be rectified at once, as I was informed at the Department Office in Münster. There is no trouble of any kind with the inhabitants on these walks, but the children, so I was told, often approach the officers to beg, generally with success, for chocolate.

With the approach of spring the aspect of the camp was cheerful, and the sunny weather allowed the officers to sit out of doors in camp chairs. In the afternoon a football match was played between a Scotch and a Russian team, and the former marched on the field preceded by a strenuous performer on the bagpipes. Lately an enclosure and wooden horse for polo practice have been arranged at one end of the field, which give additional opportunity for quite violent exercise.

Religious services are read by Colonel Bolton every Sunday in a good-sized room. On the day in question there was a good attendance, and the 91st hymn was sung with much spirit.

The officers as well as men are receiving very considerable supplies from home, and the postal arrangements are satisfactory.

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 19 (1915)," No. 45.

Digitized by Google

The sleeping rooms of the orderlies are sufficient, and they had no complaints. Both officers and orderlies appeared to be, with few exceptions, in robust health.

The relations with the camp authorities are excellent. There were no complaints, and the only wish I was requested by General Bruce to transmit related to the glazing over of the lower parts of windows looking out on the public street. At Münster I was informed that the desire of the officers to enjoy an unobstructed view would, if possible, be granted.

I have, &c.
ELLIS LORING DRESEL.

March 24, 1916.

1915.				
Nov. 1	From	Duisburg	...	Capt. L. S. Morrison, 3rd Batt., 1st Canadian Contingent.
3	„	Mainz	...	Lieut. W. Dalzell, R.N.A.S.
3	„	Mainz	...	Lieut. B. Wilkin, R.N.A.S.
3	„	Mainz	...	Lieut. A. Birnir, R.N.A.S.
1916.				
Feb. 2	„	Düsseldorf	...	Lieut. C. Maunsell, 6th Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
14	„	Wesel	...	Capt. Middleton, Royal West Kent Regiment.
17	„	Mainz	...	Lieut. John Robinson Beverley, Aviation Corps.
17	„	Mainz	...	Lieut. Anthony Harvey, Norfolk Regiment.
1915.				
Oct. 25	To	Gütersloh	...	Lieut. P. Broder, Royal Flying Corps.
25	„	Gütersloh	...	Lieut. C. Dolling-Smith, R.N.A.S., Folkestone.

Enclosure 3 in No. 4.

Report of Visit by Mr. Dresel to Detention Camps at Münster.

Münster I.

THIS camp, described with the other Münster camps in a report of the 6th April, 1915,* contains two large compounds or rectangles formed by lines of barracks on each side. The spaces inside these compounds are occupied partly by the usual kitchens, wash and bath houses, and small gardens, cultivated by the French prisoners, have been laid out in some places. The soil contains much clay, and at the time of the visit, the 16th March, 1916, the mud was very deep, making exercise, except on the board walks, impossible.

One hundred and thirty-four British were found in one compound, quartered with other nationalities in four separate rooms, containing 77, 24, 30, and 3 respectively; the other compound contained 163 British in one room. The sleeping places were arranged in two tiers in each room, the lower tier being formed by wooden frames containing straw mattresses, the upper tier by hammocks. Four blankets, apparently containing but little wool, were allowed to each man. The rooms appeared to be overcrowded, but at the time of the visit a number of the beds in the centre of nearly each room were being removed, and the occupants transferred to other quarters, the space thus gained to be occupied by tables. The barracks were hardly sufficiently lighted, there being two electric lights inside and two outside a room measuring 186 ft. by 45 ft., and as there were windows only on one side of the room, the ventilation was not especially good. The buildings were built immediately after the beginning of the war, and are therefore not up to the standard of those of newer construction observed in a number of camps.

The prisoners were well clothed and provided with overcoats, the chief reliance being on shipments from England. The bathing and latrine arrangements appear satisfactory. There were the usual complaints as to the food, but, as in most camps,

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 11 (1915)," No. 2.

Digitized by Google

the prisoners prefer to depend on packages from home, which arrive in sufficient quantities. For two months there had been a shortage in potatoes, which were for a time replaced by carrots and turnips, but according to the camp authorities this lack was now being remedied. Meat was served twice a week.

A Young Men's Christian Association building has been erected in this camp, containing a chapel, theatre, library, and other rooms, and religious services are held here weekly under the direction of Rev. Claus Olandt, of New York, of the International Committee of the Association, who has been active in visiting the prisoners.

The lazaret contained 39 British, stated by the surgeon-in-charge (who had only been there two days) to be composed of (1) convalescents, (2) men who had been recommended for exchange, (3) a few who were alleged to have refused operations. The accommodations and treatment appeared, and were stated by the patients to be, satisfactory, and the complaints related almost entirely to cases where the men claimed that their injuries should entitle them to exchange.

The present commandant, who had only been in charge two weeks, shows a disposition to make improvements. He promised that a satisfactory football field should be laid out outside of the camp, and that the space inside should also be put into condition for games. The British were all to be put together at an early date in quarters which would afford them sufficient room. Some minor complaints were also promised immediate attention.

Münster II.

THIS camp, visited on the 16th and 18th March, 1916, is on the site of a former race track, situated on a flat, cultivated plain, some four miles outside the city. With the exception of the large brick building, formerly a " grand stand " and now devoted to administrative purposes, the living and sleeping rooms consist of the usual wooden barracks arranged around all the sides of four hollow squares, separated by two long cross walks at right angles to each other. The prisoners are at liberty to circulate among the various blocks. The space in the centre of these squares, about 330 yards on each side, is partly occupied by smaller buildings, which together with the deep mud present at this time of year, make exercise, such as football, difficult. There are some tennis grounds outside of the blocks, which were not, however, in use at this season.

Of the 38,000 prisoners nominally attached to the camp, the great majority have been sent to working camps, and the remaining 9,000 were about equally divided among the four blocks. The whole number of British in the camp at the time of the visit was 960, quartered among blocks 1, 3, and 4.

Part of one of the barracks has been excellently fitted up as an English chapel, and Private Champion, 1st East Lancashire, who occupies a separate room adjoining the chapel, conducts the services, and has been successful in interesting the men.

The commandant, General von Ey-Steinecke, as well as the other officers, and the general treatment, are well spoken of by the men. The complaints which I transmitted to him, were promised immediate attention ; these related principally to the want of a football field, and to lack of sufficient light and ventilation in the barracks. On the second visit to the camp, on the 18th March, it was gratifying to be told by the men that steps had already been taken to improve conditions in the barracks in these last two respects.

Münster III.

THIS camp consists of a number of brick buildings, formerly used partly as an orphan asylum, including a number of additions which have been made from time to time. Out of a total of about 12,000 (235 British) nominally attached to the camp, only about 3,500 are now detained there, the remainder being at working camps. The British found in the camp on the day of the visit, on the 15th March, 1916, numbered 171. These were all in one company, and occupied very satisfactory sleeping quarters in several rooms of one of the brick buildings. Until lately there was some crowding, but now, by the fitting up of new quarters, the number of occupants of each room

Digitized by Google

has been reduced one-half, the vacant space being utilised for tables, where the men can eat, work, and play games. There are other very favourable features in this camp. The exercising field is ample, and affords good opportunity for football matches. The canteen is well stocked with some 150 to 200 articles at moderate prices, the profits, which are small, being used for the welfare of the camp. Cups of hot bouillon are served here at 1*d.* apiece, and these, as well as non-alcoholic beer at 1½*d.* a bottle, are very popular. A well-equipped hair-cutting and shaving saloon, where those who are unable to pay are attended to without charge, is in the hands of French barbers. There is a French theatre, with a capacity of 600, an orchestra, and a cinematograph.

There is a separate English chapel where two services are conducted each Sunday, and one on Thursday evenings, all by Private Munnings, Suffolk Regiment, and which are well attended. This chapel has been fitted up with a good deal of taste, and decorated with texts in blue and gold. The benches were provided at the expense of the camp, although the British prisoners offered to pay for them. There is a good harmonium which is hired in the town at the expense of 5*s.* monthly, Private Lister, Notts and Derby, who has recently composed two anthems and a cantata, being the choirmaster. There is an abundance of hymnals and prayer books, and a library of about 200 books in the chapel.

The camp authorities have endeavoured to arrange courses of instruction with some success, and several British are taking lessons in French.

The bathing arrangements are especially good, and provide for two showers a week for each man with liberty to take more if desired. The latrines are of the usual trench system, and, at least in cold weather, free from objectionable features.

The clothing of the British prisoners is sufficient, and they are in good health, only three were found in the lazaret, two of whom were convalescent, the care and quarters being satisfactory.

There were no complaints of any kind as to conditions in the main camp, although there was ample opportunity given to make such in private. Sergeant Middleditch, 1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment, the ranking non-commissioned officer, who has taken an active part in the work of improvement, stated that the relations with the camp authorities were excellent, and that the officers showed much consideration in acceding to reasonable requests. The commandant, General Raitz von Frentz, is well spoken of by all, and shows a liberal and progressive spirit in dealing with such difficulties as arise. These relate largely to friction of various kinds at the working camps. After a searching enquiry among all the non-commissioned officers and a number of men, nothing tangible was found as to which complaint could properly be made.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.

March 24, 1916.

No. 5.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador and has the honour to refer to his Excellency's note of the 31st ultimo, transmitting copy of a report addressed by Mr. Jackson to the United States Ambassador at Berlin on the conditions prevailing in the internment camp at Wünsdorf, Zossen.*

Sir E. Grey will be much obliged if an expression of his cordial thanks can be conveyed to Mr. Jackson for the information furnished to His Majesty's Government in this interesting report.

Foreign Office, April 7, 1916.

* See No. 2.

Digitized by Google

No. 6.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to refer to his Excellency's note of the 4th April transmitting copies of reports by Mr. Dresel, of the United States Embassy at Berlin, on visits to the prisoners of war camps at Crefeld and Münster.*

In requesting that his cordial thanks for these reports may be conveyed to Mr. Dresel, Sir E. Grey desires to express his great appreciation of the work done by the Rev. Claus Olandt for the benefit of the British prisoners. Sir E. Grey would be grateful if the United States Ambassador at Berlin should find it possible to cause the camps 1 and 2 at Münster to be visited again at no distant date in order to ascertain whether the improvements promised by the German authorities have been carried out.

Foreign Office, April 10, 1916.

* See No. 4.

No. 7.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to refer to his Excellency's note of the 1st instant transmitting copy of a report by Mr. Jackson on the results of a visit of inspection recently made by him to places at Spandau in which British prisoners of war are interned.†

Sir E. Grey will be much obliged if an expression of his thanks can be conveyed to Mr. Jackson for the information furnished to His Majesty's Government in this report.

Foreign Office, April 10, 1916.

† See No. 3.

No. 8.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 13.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith enclosed a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 1st instant, enclosing copies of reports of visits made to the prisoner of war camps at Cottbus, Görlitz, Sagan, Sprottau, Neuhammer (Queis), Guben, and to the lazarets in Hamburg.

American Embassy, London, April 11, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, April* 1, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of reports of visits paid by Dr. Ohnesorg to the prisoner of war camps at Cottbus on the 23rd March, Görlitz and Sagan on the 24th March, Sprottau and Neuhammer (Queis) on the 25th March, and Guben on the 26th March, and by Mr. Jackson to the lazarets in Hamburg on the 31st March.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
JOHN B. JACKSON.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

Report of Visits of Dr. Ohnesorg, U.S.N., to the Prisoner of War Camps at Cottbus, March 23; Görlitz and Sagan, March 24; Sprottau and Neuhammer (Queis), March 25; and Guben, March 26, 1916.

THESE camps were all visited by me without previous announcement, and I was afforded opportunity of speaking with the prisoners out of hearing of the military authorities. With the exception of Cottbus, all the above camps had been previously visited by members of the Embassy staff, so that a detailed description of them is not necessary. In all the parent camps which I have visited during the past three or four months there are so many prisoners detailed to the numerous working camps that these main camps contain less prisoners than the number for which they were designed, so that a great deal of extra room exists. Cottbus (Camp 1), Guben, and Görlitz were among the first built in Germany, and they have the large type of barrack. At Cottbus (Camp 2) and Neuhammer the earth type of barrack ("Erdbarracke") was seen.

The general conditions observed were satisfactory. Hygienic conditions are very good, and there were very few cases of illness among the British prisoners of war. Complaints were few in number and for the most part were not of a serious nature. The clothing was sufficient and in good condition, and all the men had good shoes. In none of the camps did I find that non-commissioned officers were detailed for working camps.

In Cottbus (Camp 2), Sagen, and at Neuhammer (Queis) I found Serbian prisoners of war, and I was informed that a great many of this nationality were detained at Lamsdorf and Halbe.

Cottbus.

There are two camps here.

Camp No. 1 (*Silow*).—This is placed on the outskirts of the town, the compound occupying the race court. The barracks are of wood, of the large type, divided into two large rooms, each accommodating 250 men. The bunks are arranged into two tiers at each end of the room, giving a large space in the centre for tables, &c., where the interned mess, write, and play games. The camp is divided into companies, each consisting of two barracks, and, when occupied to its full capacity, could accommodate 8,000 prisoners. There were barely 3,000 in the camp at the time of my visit. The British, 170 in number, occupied one of these half-barracks, and were quartered alone. Thirty non-commissioned officers are detained here; of these five had lately volunteered for work and had been sent to an estate at Rogow, near Oegeln, where they were engaged in farm work. Twenty British enlisted men were also at a working camp in Schönewald, engaged in agricultural work.

The seven senior non-commissioned officers had been given a room by themselves. The remainder were quartered with the enlisted personnel. A large field was available for exercise, football, &c., and the camp had a very good theatre, besides a workshop, where I saw several of the prisoners, principally French, engaged in wood-carving and painting.

This camp contained only a lazaret for temporary cases. Those of the prisoners who became really ill were transferred to the prisoner of war hospital at the other camp.

Camp No. 2.—The only British found here were in the hospital, nine in number. Three were suffering from phthisis, one from valvular heart disease, while the remaining five were convalescing from wounds or some trivial ailment. The hospital consisted of three large barracks in a compound adjoining the prison camp. The wards were light, were ventilated, and the sanitary arrangements and equipment good. German doctors, assisted by two Russian military surgeons, supervised the treatment of the patients, while German and Russian hospital corps men were detailed for orderly duties. The hospital had its own kitchen, &c. The Kommandant informed me that it was not the intention to quarter any British prisoners in Camp 2; the camp at Silow had been decided upon as the assembling depôt for them.

Görlitz.

An addition to house 3,000 men has lately been completed. The camp is placed on the outskirts of the town, adjoining the military barracks. There are 66 British in

Digitized by Google

the camp; 29 of these are non-commissioned officers, the seniors of whom occupy a room by themselves. The remaining British are housed together in one section of an adjoining barrack. Twelve of the British are employed in the town in excavating work and road-building. They return to camp in the afternoon. A large field is available for playing football, &c. Here it might be in place to mention that in the camps visited prisoners of all nationalities, who are not detailed for work, are obliged to take a certain amount of daily exercise.

Near the camp, within a separate enclosure, is the camp hospital. This consisted of several barracks, each with sixty beds, well equipped, the attendants being largely Russian sanitary personnel. Russian military surgeons, under the supervision of German doctors, had the care and treatment of the patients. One British prisoner was in the hospital recovering from a lymphangitis of left arm.

Sagan.

This camp was visited by me in August last. There are now thirty-four British in the camp, and twenty-two have been detailed to working camps. I was informed that some had been sent as far east as Brest-Litowsk, in Russian Poland, their work being on railroad repair. Corporal Francis Enefer, of the West Yorkshire Regiment, was the senior non-commissioned officer. He was employed, at his own request, on the camp post office as the representative of the British interned. There was some complaint here concerning the delay in the receipt of parcels and also the prompt forwarding of them to those of the prisoners who were in working camps. I afterwards took up this question with the Kommandant, who said he would remedy the delay. Some delay naturally does occur, considering the enormous number of parcels which are received, all of which have to be censored. These thirty-four British were all in good physical condition, and had sufficient clothing and good shoes. A second large camp, built to accommodate 6,000, is also located in Sagan.

Sprottau.

The Kommandant, Colonel Wachholz, was on leave, and his adjutant received me. Seven British prisoners of war are interned here. Two of them are non-commissioned officers, Sergeant John Hamilton, Northumberland Fusiliers, and Corporal Wakefield, of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. They, together with fifteen other British prisoners, joined this camp in September 1915. Soon after arrival, in early October, they were transferred to a working camp at Glogau, a sugar factory. Their work consisted of wheeling coal into the power-house of the factory. The seven men, whom I found in Sagan, refused to work on Sunday. They were returned to Sagan and afterwards tried by court-martial and sentenced to six months' imprisonment—three months for disobedience and three months for conspiracy. The sentence was appealed, and they are now awaiting a retrial. The remaining fifteen British, after this occurrence, were removed from this working camp and transferred to other parent camps. The seven awaiting trial are not under arrest and are housed together alone in one room.

A large addition to the camp has been finished, and another is in process of construction. The new barracks are small, the buildings divided into two rooms, which are each designed to accommodate thirty prisoners. The adjutant informed me that it was the intention, when the changes were accomplished, to use this camp as an assembling depôt for prisoners of war with pulmonary affections, who are not eligible for exchange.

Neuhammer (Queis).

Neuhammer, in times of peace, is one of the largest, if not the largest, troop manœuvring grounds [*sic*] for the German army. It is strictly a military centre; the few houses comprising the village are all occupied by civilians who are connected in some way with the military or cater to them. At present it is used as an assembling depôt for German soldiers; 10,000 are stationed here who are being drilled, equipped, &c. Here are two camps for prisoners of war. One, the smaller of the two, occupies a location within the main grounds of the military reservation, the prisoners being housed in the barracks formerly occupied by German soldiers, and in brick buildings which were formerly artillery sheds. There are only French and a few Russian prisoners in this camp. The French have a separate kitchen, presided over by cooks detailed from French prisoners. They are given the ration and permitted to cook it according to

Digitized by Google

their own taste. The second or larger camp is situated about a mile from the first, and consists of a large compound containing sixty-three earth huts ("Erdbarracken"). These earth barracks are of wood, and built into the sandy soil. Each barrack is designed to accommodate 100 men, the bunks being arranged along the rear end of the building, and the straw mattresses placed on a framework above the floor. The front of the building projects about 3½ feet above the level of the ground, and numerous windows give the necessary light and ventilation, and in addition skylights are provided. The kitchens and bathing establishment are of the standard type in buildings above ground, and placed at one side of the compound, while on the opposite side are arranged the latrines. The German guard of the camp is housed in earth barracks outside of the prison compound. In this camp I found nine British, the senior of whom was Sergeant Hurworth, of the West Yorkshire Regiment. All of these men were in good physical condition, but four needed clothes, and they informed me that they had written home, and that the necessary supply of clothing would be sent. One hundred and sixty British belonging to Neuhammer have been detailed to working camps, the majority for farming work. Mention should be made of the camp hospital, which had a bed capacity of 800. There were some 300 prisoner patients, only one of whom was British, and who was recovering from an attack of influenza. The wards were spacious, well ventilated, clean, and the treatment, both professional and otherwise, very good.

Guben.

This camp was visited on the following day (26th March). I have described it in a previous report. There are at present only 3,000 prisoners of war detained here. 47 are British, of whom 21 were transferred the beginning of the month from Döberitz. The two sergeant-majors occupy a room together. Three men are in the camp hospital, two of whom are to be exchanged, and of these one is insane and the other has epilepsy. The third was recovering from tonsillitis. The British were quartered together in one end of a large barrack, which also contained French and Russian prisoners. The portion of the building allotted to the British was not as well lighted or ventilated as was possible. This was easy of adjustment, and the Kommandant, when I called his attention to the defect, examined the barrack and gave the necessary orders to his adjutant for the installation of a window. There are no British prisoners detailed to working camps from Guben. Those interned here have been called upon to work in the immediate vicinity, only at field labour.

A very good theatre, a church for the Russians and French, and a library are additions to the camp since my last visit.

KARL OHNESORG.

Enclosure 3 in No. 8.

Report of Visits to Lazarets at Hamburg.

RESERVE LAZARET VII has been installed in a separate ward of the "Central Gefängnis" at Fuhlsbüttel, near Hamburg. The ward consists of a large brick building in the middle of a good-sized enclosure which is surrounded by high walls, making the presence of guards unnecessary. Although the surroundings are not cheerful, nothing was said to me on this point by the British prisoners, who seem to enjoy the privilege granted them to walk about the enclosure and to smoke both outside and inside the building. At the time of my visit, which was unannounced, there were eight British prisoners (names appended) in the hospital, who live together in one large well-aired room. One of these men (Dickson) was wounded in October 1914, and had been in this lazaret since January 1915. His condition is such as to entitle him to repatriation, but the surgeon in charge said that it would be dangerous to endeavour to transport him by sea. His case will be considered, however, when the arrangement to intern British prisoners in Switzerland is completed. Three others had been in Hamburg for a number of months, and four had arrived recently from working camps in Schleswig. The men (all) found fault with the food, which is, however, the same as that furnished to the patients of other nationalities, including Germans. The thick soup furnished at the midday meal (fish and potatoes) did not look appetising, but it did not taste badly and was certainly nutritious. The soup furnished to those

Digitized by Google

requiring a special diet was better. All were in receipt of parcels from home, although those who came recently from working camps complained of irregularity in their delivery. These men said that their treatment in hospital is satisfactory, and they all seemed in good spirits. I spent an hour and a half talking with them, being alone with them the greater part of the time.

At Reserve Lazaret III ("Eppendorfer Krankenhaus") there are at present no British prisoners, and I was told that there were none in the other hospitals in Hamburg.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

March 31, 1916.

JOHN DICKSON, 5445, Cameron Highlanders, wounded (right thigh), the 21st October. 1914, picked up the 26th October, and treated in various hospitals, brought to Hamburg in January 1915.

HERBERT PETTS, 1357, 2nd East Kents (Buffs), taken at Ypres, and brought to Hamburg in May 1915.

JOHN HENRY DUFFY, 2712, 3rd Royal Fusiliers, taken at Ypres in May 1915, and brought to Hamburg in August.

THOMAS BRAYSHAW, 4780, King's Own Royal Lancasters, same as Petts.

PATRICK O'BRIEN, 69467, Royal Field Artillery, taken—unwounded—in August 1914, first in the camp at Güstrow, and subsequently in a working camp, brought to Hamburg on the 9th March, 1916. (Fever.)

GEORGE COPE, 3317, Loyal North Lancashires, taken in October 1914, treated in various hospitals, in camp at Güstrow, and subsequently in a working camp, brought to Hamburg on the 24th March, 1916. (Bronchitis.)

DAVID DYSON SHERWOOD, 7064, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, taken to Güstrow in November 1914, subsequently in a working camp, brought to Hamburg on the 24th March, 1916. (Old wounds.)

G. E. BRABON, 10263, 1st King's Royal Infantry, taken—unwounded—in November 1914, in the camp at Güstrow, and subsequently in a working camp, brought to Hamburg on the 27th March, 1916. (Broken ankle, caused by a fall downstairs.)

No. 9.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 13.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 4th instant, transmitting copies of reports of visits made to lazarets at Münster and Crefeld, to the officer prisoners' camp at Werl, to the men's camp at Dülmen, and to the Sennelager camps and lazarets.

American Embassy, London, April 12, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 9.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, April* 4, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of reports of visits made recently by Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel, a member of the Embassy staff, to lazarets at Münster and Crefeld, to the officer prisoners' camp at Werl, to the men's camp at Dülmen, and to the Sennelager camps (British Foreign Office's note of the 24th February, 1916) and lazarets. At all these places Mr. Dresel talked with the British prisoners of war privately and freely.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
JOHN B. JACKSON.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 2 in No. 9.

Report of Visit of Mr. Dresel to Lazarets at Münster and Crefeld.

A VISIT was paid to the "Reserve Lazaret" in Münster on the 17th March, 1916. This consists of several buildings of the seventeenth century, formerly part of a nunnery, adjoining a large court-yard which affords ample room for exercise. The enclosure also contains a large church of about the sixteenth century, now not used, and the whole impression is quaint and peaceful. On one side of the court-yard is a modern barrack for infectious diseases in which only one patient (not British) was seen.

The hospital contains thirty-nine British non-commissioned officers and privates, of whom only three were in bed at the time of the visit; the others (several on crutches) were strolling or sitting outside, the day being mild and sunny. Of those confined to their beds, Private Brigden, 8th Buffs, No. 2966, who has lost a leg, and who will be exchanged as soon as his condition permits the adjustment of an artificial leg, attracted attention by his extreme optimism and good spirits, which appeared to have infected the whole ward. No complaints were heard from any of the British, and the atmosphere was one of cheerfulness. The wards are well ventilated, clean, and not overcrowded. The food which was tasted was excellent and abundant, and the sanitary and general arrangements, as in most German military hospitals, entirely modern and satisfactory.

On the 19th March the lazaret at Crefeld, situated near the officers' camp was visited. The patients are housed in a modern building with all necessary appliances. Private Huisman, 8th Gordon Highlanders, and two other privates were found in this hospital. They had no complaints.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.

March 29, 1916.

Enclosure 3 in No. 9.

Report of Visit of Mr. Dresel to Officers' Detention Camp at Werl.

THERE has been little change in conditions at this camp since the detailed report by Mr. Michelson of the 19th May, 1915,* and the same six officers were found there as then. Four of these were occupying single rooms, and the remaining two younger men, a slightly larger room. All the rooms were sufficient in size, sunny and well ventilated. Walks under parole had begun, the parties being sufficiently large to allow each officer to go out twice a week. As yet it had not been found practicable to arrange a space for a lawn tennis court, the surrounding areas being used almost exclusively for vegetable gardens, and the yard, giving opportunity for a round walk of not more than 100 yards, is small and cramped. On bringing this matter to the attention of the authorities at Münster, it was promised to take steps at once to permit the officers to hire a court at some little distance (which it is understood they are willing to do), and to take their temporary paroles, when they use it, as on walks.

As to food the reliance was principally on packages from England, the officers not finding the fare served in the camp to their taste, though it appears to be sufficient in quantity. The bathing arrangements, allowing of but one bath a week, are still not so satisfactory as might be wished.

There were no other complaints, and in the opinion of the officers the difficulties noted were at least partly compensated for by the great advantage of separate sleeping quarters.

The health of all British prisoners is excellent. Most of the officers spend much time in the study of languages and other subjects, and there have been a number of theatrical performances in which the British have taken part.

The present visit was on the 20th March, 1916, and St. Patrick's day had recently been celebrated with some thoroughness.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.

March 29, 1916.

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 15 (1915)," No. 3.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 4 in No. 9.

Report of Visit by Mr. Dresel to Detention Camp at Dülmen.

THIS camp, previously described in a report by Mr. Jackson on the 21st October, 1915,* was visited on the present occasion on the 18th and 19th March, 1916. At the date of the visit 1,051 British out of 4,398 prisoners were found here, about 300 British being absent in working camps. The British are all together in one of the blocks, in barracks housing on an average 135 men. Here, as in several Westphalian camps, hammocks are used for the upper tiers. The principal ground of complaint related to men convalescent from wounds and partly disabled who, it was stated, were not accorded special treatment, and slept in the same barracks as the others. On this being reported at Münster, arrangements to house these cases in a separate barracks, where they could receive special attention, were at once ordered.

There were the usual representations by prisoners as to inferior quality and insufficiency of the food, and the men relied, according to their statement, almost exclusively on supplies from home.

Relations with the military authorities in this camp are unusually satisfactory, and the ranking non-commissioned officer stated, out of hearing of any Germans, that the men had no cause of complaint on account of their treatment, and that the behaviour of those in charge of the camp towards them was entirely as it should be.

In answer to inquiries of the commandant, it was stated that a football field would shortly be laid out outside of the camp, and also that arrangements would be made permitting more frequent bathing; now there is only provision for one bath a fortnight.

The British privates are allowed at this camp to spend 20 M. a week, and the non-commissioned officers 40 M. There is a bank for deposits of surplus funds, in which the total amount credited to the British was 1,509 M.

The clothing of the prisoners, all of whom were inspected, is now almost without exception satisfactory, each man having an overcoat.

There is an English library, but the non-commissioned British officer in charge reports that there is not very much reading.

The work given to prisoners in the main camp is quite light, and consists of digging, grading, &c., on the adjoining heath, assistance in erection of barracks, &c.

The general aspect and atmosphere of this camp are good, and it is unusually clean, neat, and well arranged.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.

April 4, 1916.

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 19 (1915)," No. 45.

Enclosure 5 in No. 9.

Report of Visit by Mr. Dresel to Sennelager Camps and Lazarets.

THREE of the Sennelager camps were described in a report of a visit made by Mr. Osborne in April 1915.† In addition to those, there is a fourth camp (Staumühle) situated at a distance of some 4 miles from the other three, but under the same commandant as the others. The camp lazaret and a sanatorium, at a distance of some 6 miles at Lippspringe, were also visited on the present occasion (the 21st and 22nd March, 1916). There are now no British civilians at Sennelager.

In all these establishments the general conditions are now good. The climate and the nature of the soil are conducive to health; there is sufficient room for exercise, and there were few serious complaints of any kind, though ample opportunity was given to speak to the men alone. Improvements are now being made in the sleeping quarters, the beds now being placed in two tiers, and blocks of four in each tier, in the centre of the barracks. At the sides, next to the windows, tables, some 20 feet in length, are being adjusted, at which the men can eat, write, and play games. These are not yet fully completed, but assurances were given that in a short time the accommodations would allow each eight men one of these tables. A good feature is further the construction (also not yet completed) of small wooden cupboards to hold eatables and other effects of the prisoners.

† See "Miscellaneous, No. 14 (1915)," No. 5.

Digitized by Google

In all these camps there were the usual complaints as to food, which did not, however, appear to be fully justified, as the soup served at the mid-day meal (camp 2) was tried and found good. In all the kitchens seen one or more British are employed, and they are allowed to make suggestions in regard to the fare. The chief dependence is on packages from home, and considerable apprehension was expressed by some prisoners that the supply might cease. That there seems, however, to be no immediate danger of this is shown by the fact that in January 58,000 packages were received by the British, and in February 53,000 out of a total for each month of some 160,000.

There were no complaints as to non-receipts of packages, but some as to irregularity in the receipt of letters, both those addressed to the prisoners at the camps, and to their relatives and friends in England. An inspection of the postal bureau and enquiry of the camp officials failed to disclose sufficient grounds for a belief that the trouble was within the camp.

Arrangements will shortly be completed for the preferential treatment of the higher classes of non-commissioned officers, but the nature of the added privileges had not yet been decided.

The bathing arrangements, allowing of a bath each week, appear now to be satisfactory. It was stated that in summer all prisoners are given opportunity for river bathing. The latrines were also examined and were found sufficient and free from odour. As in most country camps, there is no flushing, but proper attention is paid to the disinfection of the latrines and removal of the refuse, and the latter is now no longer used on the adjoining fields.

At Senne 1 were found only 18 British, 185 being absent at various working camps. Those in the main camp had been found temporarily or permanently unfit for outside work. There were complaints that the men, though in each case they were in possession of leather boots from home, were obliged to wear wooden clogs in the camp. On reporting this to the Inspection Department at Münster it was promised that the regulation should be changed. The barracks here were not overcrowded, on account of the absence of many prisoners in working camps, and general conditions were not unsatisfactory.

Senne 2 contained at the time of the visit 642 British out of a total of 1,736. There was some discontent in this camp on account of an attempt to escape by French prisoners, in which no British were alleged to be concerned, having been followed by football, theatres, and music being stopped for a week as punishment. It was claimed that penalties should only have been inflicted on those in the barrack from where the attempt was made. This matter was taken up both with the commandant and at Münster, and an investigation was promised.

Walks allowed to higher non-commissioned officers in this camp had been stopped on account, as was stated, of the difficulty of providing enough guards.

A sketch plan of this camp is hereto annexed.

In Senne 3, also called Waldmühle, 304 British were found, 426 being away on working parties. Conditions were good here, the British prisoners being housed in two barracks containing 144 and 160 respectively. The football field has been somewhat restricted in size, of which the men complained, but on enquiry it was ascertained that the grounds had been considerably extended in other directions, and as in the Sennelager camps generally the opportunities for exercise are not inadequate. There was also some complaint as to the disturbance of the arrangements of men permanently in one of the barracks by the temporary return of working parties, but this appeared to be difficult to avoid, and it was stated by the commandant that the arrangement of a temporary receiving barrack was not practicable.

The Staumühle camp is situated on the open heath at a distance of some 3 miles from the other camps. The air is pure and bracing, and the surroundings attractive. The 99 British in this camp, which is looked on by the authorities as especially good, are partly convalescents, and in part, as was told me by the commandant, were assigned to it on account of good behaviour. The marked feature is smaller barracks than are found elsewhere, each being built for only 50, and not containing more than 40 or 45. The sleeping quarters, baths, and latrines are satisfactory, and modern in construction, and the camp gives the impression of ample space. The canteen is well stocked, and an arrangement, which has been much appreciated, permits the distribution at all hours of the day of good-sized cups of coffee, prepared by a French prisoner, for a penny a cup. There is a small orchestra. The aspect of the camp was cheerful, and the prisoners expressed themselves as satisfied with their treatment and the camp generally.

On the 17th March Private Hugh Day, Somersetshire Light Infantry Regiment,

Digitized by Google

died in the lazaret at this camp of tuberculosis. There was one other British patient in the lazaret.

The lazaret attached to the main Sennelager camps is for the treatment of acute diseases. Here were found Privates Chalmers, Gordon Highlanders (1073); Chappell, Royal Lancaster (9845); Brine, Middlesex (14754); Halls, Suffolk (8550); Smith, Suffolk (6469); Burgess, Royal Lancaster (16581); Wilkins, Norfolk (8778); Whittington, Royal Scotch Fusiliers (7755); Hemingway, Royal Munster Fusiliers (8367); Lance-Corporal Gilchrist, Gordon Highlanders (9096); Privates Taylor, 4th Middlesex (11712); Richardson, Coldstream Guards (8992); Tilt, Dorsetshire (9327); Pettitt, Norfolk (8612); Kelly, Coldstream Guards (9813); Heath, Cheshire (7198); Sutcliffe, Coldstream Guards (7711); Cox, Somersetshire Light Infantry (8501); Vines, Middlesex (8793); White, Scottish Borderers (8608); Johnson, Lancashire (7195); and Simpson, Royal Scotch (10965). The last two had fully recovered, and were acting as nurses. All these men were spoken with, and expressed themselves as fully satisfied with treatment, food, and general conditions. The wards were well aired and comfortable, and the arrangements modern.

Lippspringe.—This village, about 6 miles from Sennelager, is a health resort in a a favourable situation surrounded by pine woods. Here there is a large, high, and well-ventilated one-storey wooden building (formerly a shooting gallery and assembly hall), which contained (March 21, 1916) 125 cases, all chronic. Corporal Bryant, 1st Rifle Brigade; Privates Chapman, Royal Scots; Eden, Cheshire; Hayes, Royal Munster Fusiliers; Morris, King's Own Royal Lancaster; and Lee, Middlesex, were the only British. There were no complaints, and the accommodations, medical attention, and food, appeared to be in every respect satisfactory.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.

April 3, 1916.

No. 10.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April* 19.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith enclosed a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 8th instant, referring to Sir Edward Grey's note of the 29th March regarding the officer prisoners' camps at Gnadenfrei and Neisse, and stating that no reply has been received from the German Government to Sir Edward Grey's note of the 12th February.*

American Embassy, London, April 18, 1916.

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)," Nos. 58 and 81.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

THE American Embassy in Berlin presents its compliments to the American Embassy in London, and, with reference to the latter's communication of the 30th ultimo, enclosing a copy of the British Foreign Office's note of the 29th, regarding the conditions in the officer prisoners' camp at Gnadenfrei and Neisse, has the honour to state that a copy of the British Foreign Office's note of the 12th February was transmitted to the Imperial Foreign Office on the 21st February, but that no reply has been received as yet.

American Embassy, Berlin, April 8, 1916.

Digitized by Google

No. 11.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 19.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 8th instant, referring to Sir Edward Grey's note of the 29th of March respecting the camp at Müncheberg.*

American Embassy, London, April 18, 1916.

* See No. 1.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

THE American Embassy in Berlin presents its compliments to the American Embassy in London, and with reference to the latter's communication of the 30th ultimo, enclosing a copy of the British Foreign Office's note of the 29th March, has the honour to state that when the prisoners of war camp at Müncheberg was visited by members of the Embassy staff on the 5th January, 1916, it was found to contain only fifty-two British prisoners, who had been there but a short time, having been brought temporarily from Doberitz while alterations in that camp were being made, and who, it is understood, were soon sent elsewhere. It is understood that there are at present no British prisoners in the Müncheberg camp, but a visit will be made to the camp in the early future if it should be ascertained after enquiry that this impression is not correct.

American Embassy, Berlin, April 8, 1916.

No. 12.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to refer to his Excellency's note of the 11th instant, transmitting copies of reports prepared by Mr. Jackson and Dr. Ohnesorg respectively as to the conditions prevailing in the lazarets at Hamburg and the internment camps at Cottbus, Gorlitz, Sagan, Sprottau, Neuhammer (Queis), and Guben.†

Sir E. Grey will be much obliged if an expression of the thanks of His Majesty's Government can be conveyed to the United States Ambassador at Berlin, and to Mr. Jackson and Dr. Ohnesorg, for the information contained in these interesting reports.

Sir E. Grey will be grateful if he can be informed in due course as to the result of the proceedings in the case of the seven prisoners of war awaiting retrial at Sprottau, and also whether Mr. Gerard considers that there is any likelihood of the repatriation of the men to whose condition Mr. Jackson draws attention in reporting on Reserve Lazaret VII.

Foreign Office, April 19, 1916.

† See No. 8.

Digitized by Google

No. 13.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency's note of the 12th instant transmitting copies of reports by Mr. Loring Dresel on the lazarets at Munster and Crefeld, the internment camps at Werl, Dülmen, and Sennelager, the lazaret at Sennelager, and on Lippspringe village.*

Sir E. Grey would be greatly obliged if his thanks could be conveyed to the United States Ambassador at Berlin, and to Mr. Dresel, for the trouble which they have taken in connection with these reports.

Sir E. Grey notes that the washing facilities at Werl and Dülmen are far from sufficient, and hopes that improvements may shortly be introduced. He also hopes that the convalescent prisoners of war at Dülmen will be transferred without delay to a separate barracks, where suitable treatment for their conditions will be available. He notes with satisfaction that such transfer has been promised by the German authorities.

Sir E. Grey would also be greatly obliged if Mr. Gerard would be good enough to enquire whether the prisoners of war at Lippspringe village, whose conditions are described as chronic, those at Senne I., who are described as permanently unfit for outside work, and those at the Senne lazaret, who are undergoing treatment for acute diseases, are not sufficiently incapacitated to warrant their repatriation.

Foreign Office, April 20, 1916.

* See No. 9.

No. 14.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 26.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 19th instant, referring to Sir Edward Grey's note of the 12th February regarding visits and reports upon all the camps in Germany where British prisoners are interned.†

American Embassy, London, April 25, 1916.

† See "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)," No. 59.

Enclosure in No. 14.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, April* 19, 1916.

WITH reference to your Embassy's communication of the 14th February, enclosing a copy of the British Foreign Office's note of the 12th, I have the honour to inform you, for communication to the British Government, that members of this Embassy's staff have now visited and reported upon all the camps mentioned in the list furnished by the Imperial Foreign Office as containing British prisoners of war, with the exception of Altengrabow, which is to be visited to-morrow, and the officers' camp at Bad Colberg, a place in Thüringen, which is not easily accessible and from which no complaint has been received, but which will be visited at an early date. In addition to the parent camps many visits have been made to lazarets and working camps, in regard to which reports have already been transmitted or are being transmitted this week. Moreover, Surgeon Ohnesorg, United States Navy, has visited recently a number of other working camps in and near Berlin, and Mr. Dresel has visited working camps at Kattenvenne, Wiedenbrück, Rheda, Gütersloh (2), Mörs, and Castrop, and the main camp at Minden, in regard to all of which reports are to be sent as soon as they can be prepared.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
JOHN B. JACKSON.

Digitized by Google

No. 15.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 3.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, with reference to his note of the 25th April respecting visits to places in Germany where British prisoners of war are to be found, has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 25th ultimo, from the Embassy at Berlin, together with a copy of a report on the internment camp at Altengrabow.

American Embassy, London, May 1, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 15.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, April* 25, 1916.

REFERRING to my letter of the 19th instant in regard to visits to places in Germany where British prisoners of war are to be found, I have the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a report of a visit made by Dr. McCarthy and Mr. Osborne to the internment camp at Altengrabow on the 20th April, 1916, and to be, &c.

(For the Ambassador),
JOHN B. JACKSON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 15.

Visit of Dr. McCarthy and Mr. Lithgow Osborne to the Camp for Prisoners of War at Altengrabow.

THE camp at Altengrabow was visited and inspected on Thursday, 20th April, 1916. This camp was one of the earliest camps established for the care of prisoners of war, and at one time as many as 21,000 men were confined here; at the present time there are 4,400 prisoners of war, mostly Russian and French. At the time of our visit there were 161 British confined there.

Location.—The camp occupies the site of a "Trüppenübungs-Platz." It is situated on the north slope of a hill on a sand soil with pine woods scattered here and there about it.

Plan of Camp.—Formerly there were ninety-six barracks used for prisoners of war; at the present time there are only forty-eight devoted to this purpose. These barracks are arranged regularly in quadrilateral groups of four, each group separated from the other by wire fences, and the entire composite quadrilateral enclosed by a double barbed wire barrier. Extending back of this square area to the south, and extending to the top of the hill, a triangular area is enclosed by barbed wire to include to the west (*a*) the latrines, and (*b*) beyond this a football and exercise field; and to the east (*a*) a diet kitchen for the hospital; (*b*) the hospital buildings; (*c*) the disinfection and bathing establishment. Outside this enclosure to the west are situated the quarters for the guard, and on the east the hospital for infectious diseases.

Barracks.—The barracks are of the simple gable type, approximately 200 feet long by 50 feet wide and 15 feet high on the wall side. They are of wood construction, with wood flooring, ample window space, good light, and have possibilities for good ventilation. At the time of our visit the windows were for the most part closed, but the doors at either end of the barracks were open, thus securing a free circulation of air. No complaints were made as to the ventilation or heating of the barracks. Each barrack was built to house 250 men. At the present time there are not more than 200 men in any of the barracks.

Beds and Bedding.—The beds were of a new cot type, made of wood, in two sections, hinged together in the middle in such a way that they could be folded back

Digitized by Google

during the day, thus providing more open room in the barracks. The bedding consisted of the usual straw mattresses and blankets of sufficient quality. The bedding was aired daily in the open. The beds were clean and comfortable.

On the whole the general arrangement of the barracks is good, without overcrowding, but without that detailed attention to cleanliness of floors, &c., noted in some of the other camps. This may possibly be explained by the fact that rainy weather at the time of our visit made this detail more obvious than it would otherwise be.

Food.—The food supplied to the prisoners was the usual prisoner-of-war fare. We inspected the menu for the day, and found that it conformed to regulations. An opportunity to inspect the food was not afforded as at the time of our visit no food was being prepared.

Clothing.—All the British had sufficient clothing, underclothing, and good shoes.

Sanitary Arrangement.—The latrines were of the trench type and situated at a sufficient distance from the barracks and cared for in such a way as not to be objectionable.

Bathing.—The bath department consisted of a well-aired and ventilated room in same building as, but separated from, the disinfection plant, and was supplied with twenty shower baths. All the men were compelled to bathe once a week, and may bathe oftener.

Recreation.—The men were permitted to use the exercise field for football, &c., in the afternoons ; there is no compulsory exercise or drilling. The usual work about the camp is required. A theatre exists in the camp where performances are given. While the British attend these performances, they have taken no active part in the theatricals, due to the small number of them hitherto in the camp.

Of the 161 British at this camp sixty-one only have been confined here for any length of time. Within the last two weeks 100 men have been transferred here from Wittenberg and from a working camp at Gross-Wüsterwitz. The ranking non-commissioned officer in charge is Quartermaster-Sergeant R. P. Brown, of the Royal Engineers. He reported that on the whole the men under him were in good condition, were well treated, and the only complaints were in reference to the mail and disciplining of the men. The British are now housed together, but are found in groups in the different barracks. All of the prisoners were seen. They stated, upon being questioned, that they were satisfied with the present arrangements, and did not desire to be grouped together in one barrack. Some of the men complained that their letters were not received and that they had not received letters for one, two, or even three months, but that their packages came regularly. Most of the men had, however, received their letters regularly and had no complaints to make in this regard. This matter was taken up with the camp authorities. They stated that all the mail received at the camp was delivered, and that if any letters were held up this must have occurred elsewhere, but that they would investigate the matter. The men have a representative in the post office.

General Health.—The men all appeared to be in good health and nutrition with the exception of the following :—

1. Arthur Monro, Canadian Infantry, in the hospital for infectious diseases, suffering from pulmonary disease. Listed for examination and removal to Switzerland.
2. George McKay, Durham Light Infantry, listed for exchange to England.
3. Peter Crampton, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, listed for examination and for removal to Switzerland.
4. Bata Singh, 9th Sikh Regiment, in the hospital with gastro-intestinal trouble.

The hospital buildings, two in number with a bed capacity of twenty-five each, are clean, well lighted and heated ; the patients are well cared for.

The three barracks, outside the enclosure, are likewise well ordered, clean, well ventilated, and heated. There was only one patient in this division, the lung case above referred to.

D. J. McCARTHY.

Berlin, April 26, 1916.

Digitized by Google

No. 16.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 3.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 25th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a report on the internment camp at Müncheberg.

American Embassy, London, May 2, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, April 25, 1916.*

REFERRING to this Embassy's communication of the 8th instant,* and to the British Foreign Office's note of the 29th March, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a report made by Surgeon Karl Ohnesorg, United States navy, and Drs. Taylor and McCarthy to the internment camp at Müncheberg on the 24th April, 1916.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
JOHN B. JACKSON.

* See No. 11.

Enclosure 2 in No. 16.

Report of Visit made by Drs. Ohnesorg, Taylor, and McCarthy to the Internment Camp at Müncheberg on April 24, 1916.

THIS camp was visited and inspected by us on Monday, the 24th April, 1916. Large brick warehouses situated in the village itself were used for the purpose of housing the prisoners of war. Our visit was unannounced.

Location and Description.

The camp is located in the town of Müncheberg, and is surrounded on three sides by the houses of the village, and on the north it abuts on neighbouring farm land. The total camp area is approximately 4 acres, quadrilateral in shape. Three sides of this square area are occupied by these large brick buildings. One of these buildings has been remodelled, and an extra storey added and equipped for comfortably housing 1,000 prisoners. At the time of our visit it had not yet been occupied. At the north end of the square a brick building is used for a kitchen and the bathing and disinfection plant. An adjoining brick building is used as a canteen, assembly room, and theatre. A separate enclosure at the eastern end of the compound contains four wooden barracks for hospital purposes.

Three separate latrines were distributed in the southern half of the enclosure. The enclosure was divided into three separate areas by wire barriers. One of these areas was used for exercises, sports, &c. A total of 3,027 prisoners of war are attached to this camp, of whom 2,213 were detailed for various working camps. The British numbered 105, of whom 48 were in working camps. At the time of our visit a total of 813 prisoners were confined in the camp.

Housing.

The prisoners were housed according to nationalities. These long brick buildings were divided into rooms, approximately 30 by 30 feet, with a very high-placed ceiling, two small windows on either side of the door at the entrance, three small skylights in

Digitized by Google

the roof. The walls were whitewashed and the rooms heated by steam. The bunks were in three tiers. They occupied almost the entire floor area, thus leaving a very small free space. The bedding consisted of the usual straw sacking with blankets. The room was not overcrowded, the ventilation was good, provided the skylights could remain open. The triple-tier system gave a rather disorderly appearance to the barracks, and the general impression was one of lack of order and cleanliness. There were no vermin, and the men said they had no complaints to make in reference to their quarters.

Clothing.

All the men had sufficient clothes and shoes.

Food.

We were present at the midday meal, which consisted of bread and a soup containing blood sausage, potatoes, sauerkraut, and kohlruben. The soup was well seasoned and palatable. The men, on questioning, stated that less than thirty of the British "fetched the food" at all, and these relied on the camp food only in part. The majority of men subsisted almost entirely on supplies received from England, except that potatoes were nearly always taken when served boiled, apart from the soup ration. The men who subsisted on the camp ration stated the food was satisfactory.

General Sanitation.

The general sanitation was good. The three latrines were of concrete sinks, draining into sub-cisterns. These were emptied daily by a portable excavating apparatus. They were free from odour, clean, and apparently well-cared for. The camp water was that of the village. Frequent taps were placed about the camp, and the use of the water was unrestricted. Three houses equipped with wash-tubs and facilities for heating water were available for laundry purposes. The bathing facilities were very good. The bathhouse was a large room provided with showers and adjoining rooms for dressing. Adjoining this was a steam disinfection plant for clothing, &c. Weekly baths were obligatory, but more frequent use of the bath was permitted. The health and general condition of the prisoners were very good. There were none in the hospital. The camp hospital, consisting of three barracks, above noted, was well equipped, airy, and clean. The German Sanitary Corps, assisted by orderlies selected from the prisoners of war personnel, comprised the nursing staff. A German surgeon was in charge, and was assisted by a Russian surgeon. Extra diet was ordered when necessary.

The senior British N.C.O., Sergeant H. Mitchell, Grenadier Guards, stated that there was often a delay in receipt of incoming mail. When this matter was discussed with the adjutant of the camp, he informed us that all mail was censored at the neighbouring camp at Zossen. The reason that this was not done in the camp was due to the fact that there were not enough translators to warrant placing a censoring office in this camp.

The packages are sent direct to the camp, where they are examined and distributed. The majority of the packages are sent by organisations rather than by the families of the men concerned. They contain a more or less uniform set of supplies, and, in general, supply a sufficient amount of bread and butter to entirely cover the needs of the individual receiving them.

A shoe shop and tailor shop was part of the equipment of the camp.

The space available for exercise is insufficient. New barracks have been installed, which, when filled, will add 1,000 prisoners to the present number, and under such circumstances the limitation of space for exercise will be all the more serious. Upon representations to this effect to the adjutant of the camp, accompanied by a questioning as to the enlargement of the grounds, he replied that there was no available additional ground. A lack of proper facilities for exercise, games, &c., is one of the most serious faults of this camp. In this sense of the term the camp is overcrowded. The men were questioned without the hearing of the German officers, and there were no serious complaints registered. The men desired some means for cooking the supplies sent from home. They previously had had spirit lamps, but recently the supply of spirit was curtailed. Upon representation to the authorities, an arrangement was promised for the cooking of their own food.

Digitized by Google

Of the forty-eight British here confined, ten of them had recently returned to the camp from a working camp in Tegel. A report of this working camp was recently made by Surgeon K. Ohnesorg. They were shortly to be detailed for a working camp in Russian Poland, the work to consist in operating the motor ploughs which they had assisted in constructing at Tegel. The representative of the commandant stated that the fifteen British mentioned in the report of Surgeon K. Ohnesorg, who were employed in a coal-yard in the Paulstrasse in Berlin, were to be withdrawn from this work and returned to the camp, and in the future prisoners of war would not be detailed for work with this coal company.

Müncheberg is not considered as a permanent camp. It is more of a clearing house for working camps. The fact that it is not a camp built for the specific purpose of confining prisoners of war is to a certain extent responsible for the general impression of overcrowding, &c.

D. J. McCARTHY.
Dr. TAYLOR.
KARL OHNESORG.

No. 17.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 3.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith enclosed a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 24th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a report on the camp near Minden where a large number of British non-commissioned officer prisoners of war are interned.

American Embassy, London, May 2, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 17.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, April 24, 1916.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a report of a visit made on the 17th instant, by Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel, to the camp near Minden where a large number of British non-commissioned officer prisoners of war are interned.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
JOHN B. JACKSON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 17.

Report of Visit by Mr. Dresel to Prisoners' Detention Camp at Minden.

THIS camp, situated some five miles outside the town, was visited on the 17th April. It was designed to hold 18,000 prisoners, but at present only about 11,000, including Russians, French, Belgians, Servians, and British are kept here. Of this number 301 are British non-commissioned officers, who were transferred here in the latter part of March, from the camps at Friedrichsfelde, Dülmen, Münster I and II, and Sennelager II and III. Five sergeant-majors, including Crack, 2nd Suffolk, from Senne II, and Booth, King's Own Yorkshire, from Münster, both of whom had some trouble with the authorities at their former camps, were found in camp, besides a large number of sergeants.

The camp is divided into six large blocks, each intended for 3,000 prisoners, three on each side of a long board walk. No communication between the blocks is allowed, and I was informed that strict orders had been issued that there should be no access to other prisoners from the block occupied by the British. The British compound contains long barracks of the usual form of construction, divided into rooms approximately

Digitized by Google

33 by 18 yards in size. In one of these rooms 180 British were found quartered alone, in another some 116 with 41 Belgians. No distinction was made between the different ranks in any way, the sergeant-majors sleeping with the others, and accommodations, wooden bed frames in two tiers, with mattresses of wood shavings and two blankets were the same as in any men's camp. The lighting in the barracks can hardly be called satisfactory. There was some complaint about insufficient ventilation, but a lack of air was not noticeable at the time of the visit. There are ventilators in the sides of the barracks nearest the beds, and the windows on the other sides, which are left free for tables, are sufficient in size. Tables had not yet been fully installed, and cupboards for the men's belongings were being built along the wall.

Barbed wire entanglements, stated to have been originally erected when the camp was started as a precaution against typhus, still exist in the block, where the British are quartered though not in at least one other. Although at present they serve no especial purpose, it was stated that they were not to be removed. There are gaps for passing through this wire, but the prisoners complain that their exercising ground is reduced by its presence. The ground in the compound is, however, not in any case suited for exercise, on account of numerous ridges and furrows due to the necessity of carrying off water from the naturally muddy soil.

A source of considerable complaint was the lack of a sufficient flow of water afforded the prisoners for washing themselves and their clothes. There is enough for drinking purposes, and the prisoners use to some extent the drinking water from the taps for other purposes. For washing the water is provided by a rather inadequate tank, drawing its supply from an underground spring, and by a hand pump worked by French prisoners. The pressure does not, however, seem to be sufficient, and there is apparently difficulty in getting enough water at any time. It was stated that the matter had been investigated by engineers from the town, but nothing effective has yet been done to remedy the trouble. At the request of the men, I suggested to the Kommandant the advisability of providing wash-bowls for them, which were promised and which would improve conditions to a certain extent.

There were no complaints of the food and it was stated to be as good or better than that at other camps. The canteen is on the whole good, and biscuits, apple sauce, sausages, tooth brushes, &c., may be bought there, as well as extra articles of food ordered from outside. Matches, are, however, not for sale.

Baths are satisfactory, but the latrine, of the trench and bar system, was found to be quite offensive and too near one of the barracks, where, however, no British were quartered. It was stated that the supply of the disinfectant used, a preparation of peat ("Torfmull") had given out, but that more was to be expected. An improvement in respect to this matter was urged upon the Kommandant.

In answer to my questions, it was explicitly denied that men had been sent to this camp for disciplinary reasons. It was, however, obvious that non-commissioned officers who for one reason and another are not considered suited for supervision work, at the other camps, have been transferred here. There is no direct persuasion to induce the men to volunteer for work, but a good deal of indirect pressure seems to be brought. It was stated that the work in case of such volunteering would be confined to agricultural labour, but that so far only two British had expressed themselves as willing to engage in it. In the meantime no amusements and recreation are permitted, and at the beginning a question was even raised whether books would be permitted, though this is now settled in the affirmative. There is no opportunity for football, though it was said that it might perhaps be allowed during the coming summer, as it was last summer, at a place at some little distance from the camp. Musical instruments are not allowed in the compound where British are quartered.

A complaint that none of the British were allowed to be present when parcels were being sorted in one of the other blocks was promised rectification, and two individual grievances were also investigated and reported to the authorities. It may properly be added that the short time during which the camp has been run as a place of detention for non-commissioned officers doubtless accounts for some of the conditions, and it is to be presumed that a number of defects will later on be remedied by the authorities.

The time of the visit was not announced beforehand at the camp. The prisoners were spoken with in private at length, though there was some little difficulty at times with an over-zealous interpreter.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.

April 22, 1916.

Digitized by Google

No. 18.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador and, with reference to his Excellency's note of the 2nd May,* transmitting copies of a report prepared by Surgeon Karl Ohnesorg, United States Navy, and Drs. Taylor and McCarthy in regard to the conditions prevailing in the prisoners of war internment camp at Müncheberg, has the honour to request that Mr. Page will be good enough to convey to the United States Ambassador at Berlin and to Drs. Ohnesorg, Taylor, and McCarthy the expression of his cordial thanks for the information thus communicated to His Majesty's Government.

Foreign Office, May 8, 1916.

* See No. 16.

No. 19.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and with reference to his Excellency's note of the 18th ultimo,† and to previous correspondence relative to the conditions prevailing in the officer's internment camps at Gnadenfrei and Neisse, has the honour to state that he will be greatly obliged if the United States Ambassador can be requested to be good enough to invite the attention of the German Government to the representations in regard to the overcrowding and the defective latrine accommodation in those camps, which were contained in Sir Edward Grey's note to Mr. Page under date of the 12th February.

Foreign Office, May 8, 1916.

† See No. 10.

No. 20.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of his Excellency's note of the 1st instant, covering copy of a report by Dr. McCarthy and Mr. Osborne on a visit to the internment camp at Altengrabow.‡

Sir E. Grey would be grateful if his sincere thanks might kindly be conveyed to the above-named gentlemen for their report.

Foreign Office, May 8, 1916.

‡ See No. 15.

No. 21.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to request that his Excellency will be good enough to convey to the United States Ambassador at Berlin and to Mr. Ellis L. Dresel the expression of his cordial thanks for the information communicated to His Majesty's Government in the report prepared by Mr. Dresel as to the internment camp at Minden, of which copies were enclosed in Mr. Page's note of the 2nd instant.§

In addition to several unsatisfactory features in the conditions of this camp, to

§ See No. 17.

Digitized by Google

which Mr. Dresel has drawn attention, in respect of air and light, latrine and washing accommodation, and facilities for exercise, Sir E. Grey has observed with concern the deprivations to which the British prisoners are subjected in the matter of recreation and amusement, which cannot fail to affect unfavourably their general health and spirits, and he will be grateful for any steps which Mr. Gerard may be able to take with a view to bringing about an improvement in this connection.

Foreign Office, May 9, 1916.

No. 22.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 10.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 28th April, referring to Sir Edward Grey's note of the 12th February and Mr. Gerard's reply transmitted to the Foreign Office on the 18th April,* and enclosing a copy of a *note verbale* from the German Government respecting the officer prisoners' camps at Gnadenfrei and Neisse.

Mr. Page ventures to add that the German *note verbale* of the 1st March, to which reference is made, was transmitted to Sir Edward Grey on the 11th March last.

American Embassy London, May 8, 1916.

* See No. 10.

Enclosure 1 in No. 22.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, April* 28, 1916.

WITH reference to the British Foreign Office's note to you of the 12th February, 1916, and to this Embassy's communication of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note from the Imperial Foreign Office, dated the 27th April, with accompaniment, in regard to the officer prisoners' camps at Gnadenfrei and Neisse. For your information I beg to add that a copy of the Foreign Office's note of the 1st March (in regard to opportunities for exercise, &c.), which is mentioned in the note now under consideration, was sent to you in my letter of the 3rd March.

In this connection I also beg to add that the enquiry in regard to sanitary conditions in the Gnadenfrei camp, contained in the British Foreign Office's note of the 12th February, related to conditions as they had existed when that camp was visited on the 20th August, 1915, and that the German Foreign Office has now been informed that the anticipated improvement had taken place before the second visit to the camp was made on the 19th January.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
JOHN B JACKSON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 22.

Note verbale.

(Translation.)

WITH reference to the *note verbale* of the 21st February last, the Foreign Office has the honour to transmit to the United States Embassy the enclosed note containing the observations of the German military authorities as to the wishes and complaints of the British Government with regard to the prisoners' camps of Neisse and Gnadenfrei.

As to the negotiations mentioned in this note with respect to the outdoor exercise of the interned officers outside the camp, reference is made to the *note verbale* of the 1st March last.

Digitized by Google

As regards the sanitary improvements in the camp of Gnadenfrei, mentioned in the note of the British Foreign Office of the 12th February, which was transmitted with the *note verbale* of the 21st February, the Foreign Office would be grateful to the Embassy for a statement as to the kind of improvements referred to.

Berlin, April 27, 1916.

Statement regarding the Prisoners' Camps at Neisse and Gnadenfrei.

The camp for interned officers at Neisse is not to be given up, but the rooms at the side of Forts I and II, which are ill-suited for the accommodation of officers who are prisoners of war, are no longer to be occupied. The necessary measures have been entered upon with a view to the improvement of the sanitary arrangements.

As regards outdoor exercise for interned officers outside the limits of the camps, negotiations are taking place with the enemy Governments.

When drawing up his report with regard to the overcrowding of the camp of Gnadenfrei, the American Ambassador had in mind only the condition of the accommodation of the eight British officers; these latter live together of their own wish in a room which is one of the best dwelling-rooms in the camp. It is the dwelling-room of the former director of the Government school, and is situated on the first floor with a southern outlook. As the British officers wanted to be together this room was necessarily rather more crowded than the others. The room is 6·30 metres in length by 5·57 in breadth and 4 in height, and has consequently a cubic measurement of 140 metres, thus giving 17·5 cubic metres to each occupant. On four occasions a room for the use of staff officers was placed at the disposal of Major Charley, who is there interned, a room which he would, it is true, have had to share with a Russian or French officer. He preferred, however, to remain in his room.

In the remaining rooms of the interned officers' camp each junior officer has on the average 20 cubic metres of air space. The staff officers occupy separate and more spacious rooms, in so far as they do not of their own free choice live with the junior officers—their comrades in the regiment.

Moreover, it must be borne in mind that all the passages except the attics are of more than the usual height and breadth, and can be easily heated. The passages occupy almost as much space as all the rooms together, and are freely used by the officers throughout the day.

According to the established rules as regards the number of the occupants, at present twenty-two quarters are still free. Consequently, the camp is not overcrowded.

No. 23.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 11.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 28th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a report on the prisoners of war camp at Dyrotz.

American Embassy, London, May 10, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 23.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, April* 28, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a report of Dr. A. E. Taylor, Surgeon Karl Ohnesorg, U.S. Navy, and Dr. D. J. McCarthy of an inspection of the prisoners of war camp at Dyrotz on the 25th April, 1916, and to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(For the Ambassador),
JOHN B. JACKSON.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 2 in No. 23.

Report of Drs. Taylor, Ohnesorg, and McCarthy of an Inspection of the Prisoners of War Camp at Dyrotz.

THIS camp was reinspected on Tuesday, the 25th April. The reinspection was incidental, however, to the main purpose of our visit, namely, to take up certain matters considered below in reference to working camps attached to this parent camp. 4,448 men are attached to this camp, of which 3,204 are at the present time detailed in working camps. 754 British are attached to this camp, of which 426 are in the camp at the present time, the remainder in working camps.

Inasmuch as this camp has already been reported, it will not be necessary to describe in detail the location, organisation, &c. It may be mentioned, however, that a large plot of ground adjacent to the camp is at the present time under cultivation for growing vegetables for the camp. The prisoners of the camp are detailed for this work. The camp is large and there is plenty of free area for football, athletic contests, &c.

The kitchens, bathing establishment, disinfection plant, canteen, hospital, latrines, &c., were all carefully inspected and found to be in good condition.

The British prisoners are at the present time lodged in two large barracks. These barracks are of the newer type, *i.e.*, with high ceilings, double level roof, with roof lighting and ventilation. The barracks are approximately 150 feet long by 50 feet wide, the wall height at side 12 feet, the centre 18 feet. There are four large windows on either side wall and four semi-gable skylights. The bunks are arranged along the wall in a double tier, with central corridor. The bed space takes up two-thirds of the floor space, the central corridor area one-third. The bedding is the usual straw mattresses, blankets. All the British were housed together; their barracks were clean, well aired, and the men had no complaints to make as to their quarters. Each barrack was found to house 432 men. At the present time there are 160 British in one barrack, 110 in another, 80 in another, &c. The prisoners may bathe two days a week. Compulsory bathing once a week is enforced. Bi-monthly weight records are kept of all prisoners, taken at the bath time when the prisoners are stripped.

Food.—The diet slips in the kitchen conformed to the regulation food prescribed for prisoners of war camps. While the British relied mainly on their packages from home, they took the prison food on certain days, and practically always took the boiled potatoes. They stated that the bread at this camp was very good for black bread, but that they relied almost entirely on the wheat bread sent them from the outside.

Clothing.—All the men had a sufficient supply of clothing, underwear, &c., and had good shoes.

Mail.—Letters were received fairly promptly and no complaint was made as to packages, &c.

A library exists in the camp, and books from this are sent to the various working camps, where the number of men warrant it.

Religious services are held regularly, the services read by one of the men, and the Rev. H. M. Williams visits the camp from time to time. He had been to the camp on Monday, the 24th April, to hold a service and administer Communion.

One of the barracks is used for a theatre where performances are given. The British have taken no active part in the theatricals.

The British n.c.o.'s were quartered together in one end of one of these large barracks, where other British prisoners were also housed. They requested that quarters apart from their men be given them, and mention of this was made to the commandant.

In a report on the working camp at a rubbish-sorting plant ("Müllverwaltung"), at Boetzow, submitted by Surgeon Karl Ohnesorg and Dr. D. J. McCarthy, attention was called to the poor quarters for the men, lack of preparation for their reception, more particularly in relation to bedding, &c., complaints of the men as to their food, the disagreeable nature of the work, &c. Representations were made as to all of these at the time to the director of the works. This matter was called to the attention of the commandant of the camp both in this relation and more particularly because we found that six of the men, including one corporal, who had been detained to this working camp had been returned and were under arrest at the camp at Dyrotz. The commandant stated that the men had been dilatory in their work, and that an interpreter had been sent to them, that the regulations as to work had been read to the

Digitized by Google

men, and that any infraction of these rules would be followed by disciplinary punishment. The interpreter, who, we found, understood and spoke English perfectly, had asked the men whether they understood the regulations and that they had replied that they did; that, notwithstanding this, the men had failed to observe these rules, and that they were withdrawn to the parent camp and placed in confinement for seven days on bread and water, with a full camp ration on the fourth day. The men, when questioned, stated that they on their part had obeyed the regulations, and, as far as they could see, were withdrawn because they were unable to do that amount of work the camp authorities had decided was a day's work, namely, two men to unload a car as a day's work. These men were confined in a small building behind the lazaret, which had been erected to serve as a mortuary, but had never been employed for this purpose. The building was constructed of boards, the floor space approximately 8 feet by 8 feet, with a gabled roof 10 feet high. Over the door was a window which had been closed with black tar paper. The only ventilation possible was through the cracks between the boards. When the German n.c.o. was asked why the window was closed, he replied that darkness was one of the specified conditions of the state of "arrest." It was then suggested that the window could be darkened and still left open for ventilation, since it did not appear to us that under the conditions of space present proper ventilation could be secured for six men. No blankets or mattresses were to be furnished them save on the day on which they received their full ration. The door was locked and a sentry posted outside the building.

The camp interpreter, a German n.c.o., stated to one of us, Dr. Taylor, that some of these men under arrest had been selected for assignment to this particular working camp because they had refused to do work within the Dyrotz camp assigned to them.

The commandant informed us that this building was used for their confinement because the camp "Arrestanstalt" was occupied by other prisoners.

We visited the camp "Arrestanstalt" and found one British prisoner confined there. He was undergoing seven days' solitary confinement on bread and water, with a full ration on the third day, for escaping from a working camp at Gross Ziethen. This working camp was visited on the 18th April, 1916, by Drs. McCarthy and Ohnesorg and reported upon. The prisoner now confirmed the statement submitted on the report that conditions in that working camp were satisfactory, and that he had no valid reasons for leaving and desired to be reassigned there. This prisoner did not impress us as having full normal intelligence.

The "Arrestanstalt" consists of eight cells placed at one end of the guard house. The individual cell was a room approximately 6 feet by 4 feet, with a wooden bunk which folded up and could be used as a seat.

The commandant informed us that it was his intention to visit the working camp at Boetzow (the rubbish-sorting plant) on the following day. He stated to us that, realising the disagreable nature of the work, he had informed the group of prisoners of war detailed for this working camp that they would be kept there for a period of time at the outside of six weeks. He further stated that the six men under arrest would be returned to this working camp when they had served their term of punishment.

KARL OHNESORG.
A. E. TAYLOR.
D. J. McCARTHY.

No. 24.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 17.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith enclosed a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 8th instant, enclosing a copy of a report on the camp at Wünsdorf (Zossen), where Indian prisoners of war are interned.

American Embassy, London, May 16, 1916.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 1 in No. 24.

Mr Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, May* 8, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a report of a visit made by Drs. A. E. Taylor and D. J. McCarthy to the camp at Wünsdorf (Zossen), where Indian prisoners of war are interned, on the 6th May, 1916. No announcement of this visit was made in advance.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
JOHN B. JACKSON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 24.

Report of an Inspection of the Camp for Prisoners of War at Wünsdorf, with special reference to the Food Supply and its Preparation, by Drs. Taylor and McCarthy.

INASMUCH as this camp has already been described in previous reports, it will be unnecessary to consider this matter in this report.

At the present time there are 3,400 prisoners of war in this camp, of whom 569 are British, divided as follows :—

Ghurkhas	300
Sikhs	100
Mohammedans	106
Thakurs	63

In addition to those, a number of prisoners who were ill had been transferred to the hospital at Zossen. A routine inspection of the camp was made. The barracks were found in good order, the bedding was satisfactory, the prisoners had sufficient clothes and foot-wear, and no complaints as to their quarters. The latrines were in good order, clean, and satisfactory. The bathing arrangements were satisfactory; the bath-houses, disinfection plant, washing-houses, drying buildings, &c., in excellent condition.

The hospital for transient cases of illness was clean, well lit, well ventilated, and in charge of a German surgeon. Both buildings were inspected and found in good condition.

Special attention was paid to the kitchens, the character of the food, and the preparation.

There are four separate kitchens, assigned to the four distinct sects, for the preparation of the food in accordance with their respective rituals. Only one kind of meat is used by them—mutton. The living sheep are turned over to them by the authorities of the camp to be slaughtered in accordance with their religious tenets.

We visited each of these kitchens, observed the preparation of their food, and talked with the kitchen men through an interpreter—Sergeant Gui Garan, 1st battalion Ghurkas—a British non-commissioned officer, who acted as interpreter not only here, but also throughout our visit through the camp. Opportunity was offered not only in the kitchens but also in the different barracks for conversing with the men out of hearing of the camp officials as to the details of the food, its preparation, and other complaints the men cared to make.

The kitchen men were asked whether the foodstuffs furnished them were such as conformed to their religion, whether the quantity was sufficient and the quality satisfactory. In every instance we received affirmative replies to these questions. While inspecting the barracks, the different sects, officers and men, were questioned concerning the quality and quantity of food furnished. We received but one answer, *i.e.*, that the food was satisfactory in quality and quantity.

We inspected the store-house, which contained the following foodstuffs: Rice, wheat-flour, potatoes, tea, sugar, and margarine. All of these were found of satisfactory quality.

The ration of this camp does not follow the official menu of the Ministry of War

Digitized by Google

for prisoners of war. The diet fixed for this camp, in accordance with the customs of the prisoners, consists daily of—

	Grammes.
Rice	200
Wheat flour	200
Tea	6
Spices	3
Sugar	25
Potatoes	700
Meat	33
Margarine	25
Cabbage or similar (three or four times per week)	300

Up to two weeks ago the ration of sugar and margarine was 50 grammes each per diem, and this amount will be restored next week.

The present diet contains approximately—

	Grammes
Protein	50
Fat	28
Carbohydrate	475

yielding about 2,600 calories. The protein content is low according to Occidental standards ; it is, however, not low according to Oriental standards, and the interpreter stated that the meat ration was as much as the men had been accustomed to in their native homes.

The quantities required are weighed out by the camp authorities and turned over to the kitchen men, who prepare the food for the members of their sects.

These prisoners do not present appearances suggesting subnutrition. They are in good colour and in good flesh. The men are weighed weekly, at the time of their bath, stripped, and a record kept of these weights. We inspected these weight records, which presented only the fluctuations in body weights normally observed. For example, in one barrack 38 remained constant, 65 lost an average of 1·04 kilog., while 75 gained 1·03 kilog. over a period of a month.

On the whole, we found the conditions in the camp satisfactory, and the relations between the military authorities and the prisoners everything to be desired.

Many of the prisoners receive food in packages from Great Britain on an average once a week. By voluntary agreement, these packages, containing usually one loaf bread, a small tin of butter, and a jar of some preserves or table relish, are shared equally by all the prisoners. Canned meats when received are not used by the prisoners on account of religious objections to meat not prepared according to their ritual.

D. J. McCARTHY.
A. E. TAYLOR.

No. 25.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to refer to his Excellency's note of the 10th instant transmitting copies of a report prepared by Surgeon K. Ohnesorg, United States Navy, Dr. A. E. Taylor, and Dr. D. J. McCarthy as to the conditions prevailing in the prisoners of war internment camp at Dyrotz.*

In requesting Mr. Page to be good enough to carry to the United States Ambassador at Berlin, and to the above gentlemen, the expression of his cordial thanks for the information communicated to His Majesty's Government in this report, Sir E. Grey ventures to add that His Majesty's Government would learn with satisfaction that an improvement had been effected in regard to the ventilation of the quarters in which prisoners under arrest are confined, should it be necessary to use them on future occasions.

Foreign Office, May 18, 1916.

* See No. 23.

Digitized by Google

No. 26.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to refer to his Excellency's note of the 16th instant, transmitting copies of a report prepared by Drs. A. E. Taylor and D. J. McCarthy as to the conditions prevailing in the internment camp at Wunsdorf (Zossen).*

Sir E. Grey will be much obliged if an expression of his cordial thanks can be conveyed through the United States Ambassador at Berlin to Drs. Taylor and McCarthy for the information furnished to His Majesty's Government in their interesting report.

Foreign Office, May 23, 1916.

* See No. 24.

No. 27.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 25.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 16th instant, enclosing a copy of a report on the prisoners of war camp at Parchim.

American Embassy, London, May 23, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 27.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, May* 16, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a report of a visit made to the prisoners of war camp at Parchim by Drs. A. E. Taylor and D. J. McCarthy on the 12th May, 1916.

I have, &c.
JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 27.

Report of an Inspection of the Camp for Prisoners of War at Parchim by Drs. Taylor and McCarthy on May 12, 1916.

INASMUCH as the plan and organisation of this camp has already been detailed in the report of a visit made by Mr. Jackson on the 9th June, 1915,† it will not be necessary to consider them here.

At the present time there are 2,900 men detained here. The camp has a capacity for 25,000. Of the 2,900 prisoners in camp, 37 are British, of these, 33 are soldiers and 4 are civilians.

Attached to this parent camp there are twenty-five British detailed in working camps on neighbouring farms.

A complete inspection of the camp was made. Our visit was unannounced, and we were given full liberty to talk privately with non-commissioned officers and men.

The British prisoners are not housed together. They are distributed in various barracks as a matter of choice. They stated that they preferred the present arrangement rather than to be given a barracks where they would all be together.

The barracks are 30 by 12 by 9 feet, with eight windows. They are exceptionally clean, and at the present time from nineteen to twenty-five men are housed in each

† See "Miscellaneous, No. 15 (1915)," No. 13.

Digitized by Google

barrack. The beds are of the cot type, with straw mattresses, in good condition and with sufficient covering.

All the British prisoners had sufficient good clothing, shoes, underwear, &c.

The four non-commissioned officers are housed in a room by themselves.

The kitchens of the camp are distributed throughout the enclosure in a unit arrangement with the barracks. A number of kitchens are now closed, since the number of prisoners at present confined is small compared to the capacity of the camp. The several kitchens contain four, six, or eight large kettles. We inspected the kitchens now in operation. They are manned by cooks selected from among the prisoners and were found to be in clean and orderly condition. The food provided for the prisoners of different nationalties is identical; the foodstuffs furnished the French prisoners are cooked by them in accordance with their taste, while the food for the Russian, Serbian, and British prisoners is cooked according to German taste. The food of the midday meal (and also sometimes the evening meal) is prepared in the form of a thick soup; so far as we could observe, the differences in the two types of cooking consist in greater dilution and different flavouring by the French. The menus for each day follow in general the April diet list of the War Ministry (the May diet sheet not being yet available), except that a greater variety of vegetables is employed. The menu for the fish day, on which we visited the camp, was as follows:—

Breakfast: Bread, tea, sugar, and jam.

Dinner: Salt fish and salt roe, potatoes, ruben (three varieties, mixed), onions, soja meal, and bread.

Evening meal: Barley, soja meal, potatoes, asparagus, liebigwurzel, and bread.

The fact of the serving of fresh asparagus in abundant amount to so large a group of men, illustrates, not only the greater freedom in selection of fresh foodstuffs possible in Mecklenburg, but also the forethought of the authorities.

The colonel in charge of the camp stated to us that he had had no difficulties in securing for his camp the stated ration of fresh meat (300 grammes per week) authorised by the diet sheet. We ate of the food prepared for the midday meal and found it well flavoured and agreeable.

The bread used in the camp is made in the camp bakery, which now furnishes about 1,700 loaves daily. This bread (the K.K. bread, which is one of the two specified and authorised varieties of war bread) is made of rye meal and fresh potato mash, in the proportion of fifteen parts flour to twelve parts potato mash by weight. After baking, the bread is allowed to stand five days before being used. We visited the bakery, which was in full operation. We found the several procedures in the baking of the bread conducted in an orderly and cleanly manner. The finished bread was stored in a clean room, and the loaves served out to the men on that day were a good sample of the war bread.

We also inspected the storehouse for foodstuffs, in which we found stores of flour, dried peas, dried and tinned fish, sardines, barley, potatoes, and margarine. The storerooms were dry, clean, free of any abnormal odour; the different foodstuffs were found to be in good condition and of good quality. It was apparent to us that the commandant in charge of the camp was personally familiar with every detail of the subsistence, from the initial foodstuffs to the finished meal.

The control and distribution of packages received in this camp has been worked out in a most efficient manner. Packages are received partly by parcels post as individual packages. In large part, however, they are collected at the border into larger containers and brought in by fast freight. On being brought into camp, every package is checked off as received by a representative of the authorities. The packages for the different nationalities are then turned over to committees for individual distribution. The camp possesses a card catalogue of its prisoners, kept up to date each day, so that the exact whereabouts of each prisoner, whether in barracks, hospital, or outside of the camp engaged on agricultural labour and living upon a farm, is known. Each nationality has its own distribution committee. In the case of the British prisoners, the head of this committee is the ranking non-commissioned officer. The packages as received from the camp officer are checked off by the receiving committees and the distribution thereafter effected on the basis of the card catalogue of prisoners. Apparently the most efficient men in the camp officiate on these committees, and it is thus possible to control and trace any package from the moment of its delivery at the railway station to its reception by the prisoner to whom it is addressed. Some of the packages come in addressed to individuals; others come addressed to the committee for the benefit of the prisoners in general. The welfare committee at the present time

Digitized by Google

is composed of Sergeant Clay, Perry, and Wall. The above organisation works out most efficiently, not only in the distribution of mail and food packages within the camp, but eliminates delay in the transfer of packages, &c., to working camps.

The British prisoners, we were informed by the under officer, partake of little of the camp ration. The under officer stated that they regarded the camp fare as wholesome and sufficient, but since they received from home abundant food supplies of things to which they were accustomed, they ate their own food by preference. In this camp all the British food packages received from abroad are pooled for the common use of all the British prisoners. The British prisoners presented the appearance of normal health and weight.

The camp contains abundant facilities for bathing, in the form of hot and cold showers. Each prisoner must bathe once weekly. He may bathe as often as he wishes. On the occasion of the compulsory weekly bath, the clothing is disinfected by steam and returned to the men after being dried. All the men questioned stated that they had no complaints to make against the baths, and that ample facilities were offered for laundering their clothes.

The latrines of the camp are located in a unit arrangement to the groups of barracks. They are of the water-containing concrete tank type and are emptied by a portable excavating apparatus each day. The latrines were found in good and satisfactory condition.

There are two hospitals in addition to a combined dispensary and infirmary. One of the hospitals is within the camp enclosure, and a new hospital, not as yet occupied, some distance outside of the enclosure. The hospitals were inspected and found to be well equipped, well ventilated, clean, and the patients well cared for. There were four British in the hospital at the time of our visit. Only one of these was a serious case, J. W. Bridges, who has been ill for four months with a chronic pleurisy, is listed for internment in Switzerland.

J. J. Moore, who has suffered from diabetes for the last two years, is in the camp, but not in the hospital. He was rejected by the commission for the internment of prisoners in Switzerland.

The men had no complaint to make as to their treatment, quarters, work, &c. They expressed a desire that they have a fire to cook their supplies received from home. This matter was taken up with the commandant and his staff. They stated that if the British prisoner preferred to remain separated in different barracks, this would be difficult to arrange; that they already had a supply of hot water when they needed it, and that if some arrangement could be made to meet this wish of the men they would arrange it if possible.

The four civilian prisoners in this camp are all members of the same family. They are all occupied in the bureau for the registration of prisoners. They have been here for over a year, and preferred to remain rather than be transferred to the camp for civilians at Ruhleben.

D. J. McCARTHY.
A. E. TAYLOR.

No. 28.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to request that his best thanks may be conveyed to Drs. Taylor and McCarthy for their report on the prisoners of war camp at Parchim, copy of which accompanied his Excellency's note of the 23rd instant.*

Foreign Office, May 30, 1916.

* See No. 27.

No. 29.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 31.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 23rd instant, enclosing a copy of a report of a visit to the detention camp at Hameln.

American Embassy, London, May 30, 1916.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 1 in No. 29.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, May* 23, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a report of a visit to the detention camp at Hameln which was made by Drs. A. E. Taylor and D. J. McCarthy on the 20th instant.

I have, &c.
JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 29.

Report of an Inspection at the Detention Camp at Hameln by Drs. Taylor and McCarthy on May 20, 1916.

A FULL description of the plan and organisation of this camp has already been made, and the report submitted by Mr. Michelson.

After a consultation at the Kommandatur in the town of Hameln with the Kommandant and his adjutant, we were escorted to the camp outside of the town by an officer representing the Kommandant, and through the camp by this officer and the commanding officer in charge of this camp.

We first made an inspection of the kitchens, two of which now in operation were visited. The kitchens were found in a clean and orderly condition, manned by cooks taken from among the ranks of the prisoners, who work under supervision of two under-officers. The subsistence department is under the direct administration of the military authorities of the camp. The menu for the day was as follows:—

Breakfast: Bread, cocoa, and sugar.
Dinner: Beef with potatoes and salted green string beans.
Supper: Boiled potatoes and sausage ("Dauerwurst").

The bread ration for the day is 300 grammes; the bread is not baked in camp, but obtained from outside sources. The food prepared for the noon meal presented a good appearance. We partook of the food and found it to be well-flavoured and palatable. Two small bottles of beer were served on Sunday.

We visited the store-houses of the camp, in which were found large amounts of unperishable food supplies. The store-houses were clean, dry, and free of abnormal odour. The men stated, on direct questioning, that the food supplies sent to them from Great Britain and Switzerland were sufficient to cover practically their entire needs. The food packages were promptly delivered to the camp, and in good condition. When the question was addressed to the group of British prisoners whether any, and, if so, how many, had taken the camp food the day before, we received the reply that none had done so, and that none intended to partake of the food that was to be served on the noon of our visit. Repeated questioning only confirmed the reply that, as a rule, the food provided by the camp was not taken by the men, except in particular instances, as, for example, when boiled potatoes were served.

At the present time 207 British are in this camp. Our visit was unannounced, and we were given full opportunity to converse with the men outside of the hearing of the camp authorities. The men were drawn up for inspection at the time of our visit, and the ranking non-commissioned officer here was Thomas Davis, Wiltshire Regiment. He reported for his men that they were well treated by the officers and under-officers, and had no serious cause for complaint. The men themselves were then asked whether they had any request or complaint to make. One man requested that something should be done for the stiffness and deformity resulting from an old wound of the ankle. Inasmuch as this would, however, require operative interference, and inasmuch as at the present time the wound was healed and he was able to walk without much difficulty, we considered any immediate interference undesirable. The men requested that some arrangement should be made for cooking the material received in their parcels from home. This matter was taken up with the camp authorities, who promised to consider the matter. Some of the men stated that they had had malaria, but were at the present time free from disease. They stated that on account of this

Digitized by Google

they would be unable to work in the sun in hot weather. This matter was also called to the attention of the camp authorities.

There are at the present time retained as civil prisoners in this camp the officers of the ships of the mercantile marine taken prisoners by the "Möwe." We were told that they were considered as quasi-military prisoners on account of their official position as commanding officers in the mercantile marine, and for that reason had not been transferred to Münden with the other civil prisoners detained at this camp. There was no complaint made as to their treatment.

After the men were dismissed from inspection, we visited the different barracks where the men were housed. The men were distributed in barracks Nos. 61, 33, 6, and 79. The barracks were 50 feet by 50 feet by 12 feet, with four windows. They were clean and well ventilated. The beds were of the bunk type, a single tier on the floor along the side of the barrack and a double tier in the middle. The mattresses were filled with dried leaves, and while they did not appear as satisfactory as the usual straw mattresses, they were, according to the statements of the men, satisfactory. There was sufficient bed covering, and, on account of the small number of men detained in the camp at the present time, no overcrowding. There are at the present time 3,000 men in this camp. The camp has the capacity of 14,000.

The hospital camp was then inspected, and was found to be in good condition, clean, well-ventilated, and the men apparently well cared for. There were at the time of our visit four British confined to the hospital.

The latrines were of the trench type, built of concrete and cleaned once a week. Upon the day of inspection they presented but a small contents, and the floor was clean and the building free from excessive odour.

Bathing facilities in the form of shower baths were available, and could be used as often as the men desired. A compulsory bath once a week was insisted upon as a camp regulation. Sixteen showers were available, draining into a concrete base. In the same building a large room was available as a dressing-room and a disinfectant plant for disinfection of clothes, &c. The men, when questioned, stated that they had no complaints to make either to baths or to latrines.

On our inspection of the different barracks, we found in barrack No. 33 some fourteen men were just being released from a period of arrest of two weeks. This matter was further investigated. We found that the men had been placed under arrest for refusing to work. The statement of the men was to the effect that they had refused to work because they considered the work assigned to them as contributing to the welfare of the enemy. When questioned as to the exact nature of the work, it was found that they had refused to work in a flour mill, in a factory for tinning vegetables, and in a salt works. The men stated that they had no complaint to make as to farm work, or as to their treatment while doing farm work; that they considered, however, the milling of flour and the tinning of fruits as a direct preparation of army rations. In reference to the salt works, they based their objection to this on the ground that they considered the salt to be saltpetre, and therefore of use for the manufacture of ammunition. Dr. Taylor, who is in a position to have authoritative information on the subject, stated to the men that there were no saltpetre mines in Germany, and that the German salt deposits contained no saltpetre. The men, however, refused to accept this statement. They stated that, while the food in farms was, as a rule, satisfactory, in the industrial plants where they had been assigned to work the food was unsatisfactory. It was decided, however, to leave this question and other conditions in working camps in this district for a separate investigation and report.

Inasmuch as a statement was made by this group of men that some British prisoners were still under arrest in the camp, a visit was made to the prison barracks. A careful investigation failed to reveal the presence of any British under arrest.

The field next to the camp enclosure is used for football and other sports. In addition to this, the men are taken out from time to time for tramping trips in the surrounding hill country, which in this district is very attractive.

D. J. McCARTHY.
A. E. TAYLOR.

No. 30.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May* 31.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith enclosed a copy

Digitized by Google

of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 18th instant, transmitting certain notes respecting visits made by Mr. Jackson to places at Burg and Magdeburg where British prisoners of war are interned.*

American Embassy, London, May 30, 1916.

* The report on Magdeburg has been omitted, as it deals solely with matters personal to individual prisoners named in it.

Enclosure 1 in No. 30.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

THE American Embassy in Berlin presents its compliments to the American Embassy in London, and has the honour to transmit herewith certain notes respecting visits made by Mr. Jackson to places at Burg and Magdeburg where British prisoners of war are interned on the 11th and 18th May respectively.

American Embassy, Berlin, May 18, 1916.

Enclosure 2 in No. 30.

Notes by Mr. Jackson on certain Prisoner Detention Camps.

Burg b/Magdeburg, May 11, 1916.

(Last previous Visit on March 11, 1916.)†

CAPTAIN GEORGE ELLIOTT, Royal Irish Regiment, is still the ranking British officer. There are now 686 officer prisoners in this camp (with accommodation for about 900), of whom 26 are British, 18 having been transferred from Halle a short time ago. In the camp there are now 13 British soldiers serving as officers' servants.

The new huts with good-sized rooms, accommodating two captains or officers of higher rank, are now occupied. The grounds have been enlarged, and there is much more space for exercise. The officers are preparing to hold "Olympic games."

The only complaint made was in regard to the rate of exchange on remittances from England, which has been fixed officially by the German authorities

† See "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)," No. 78.

No. 31.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to request that his best thanks may be conveyed to Drs. Taylor and McCarthy, copy of whose report on the prisoners of war camp at Hameln accompanied Mr. Page's note of the 30th May.‡

Foreign Office, June 7, 1916.

‡ See No. 29.

No. 32.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 8, 1916.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 29th ultimo, enclosing copies of reports of visits made to British prisoners of war in the Festungsgefängnis and lazarets in Cologne and Wesel.

American Embassy, London, June 7, 1916.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 1 in No. 32.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, May* 29, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of reports of visits made by Mr. Jackson to British prisoners of war in the Festungsgefängnis and lazarets in Cologne on the 25th May, and in those at Wesel on the 26th May.*

I have, &c.

JAMES W. GERARD.

* The report on the Wesel lazaret has been omitted as it refers almost entirely to wounded prisoners and the nature of their wounds.

Enclosure 2 in No. 32.

Report by Mr. Jackson on Visit to Prisoners' Detention Camp at Cologne, May 25, 1916.

SINCE my visit to the prison at Cologne on the 18th February† the general conditions have not changed. Of the British prisoners who were there at that time, those whose sentences have expired have been sent back to regular prisoner of war camps. Private Cole is still in hospital. The men say that the food has deteriorated, and several said that they had lost weight, but all seemed in fair physical condition, although one or two were noticeably thinner than when I last saw them. All admit that their treatment does not differ in any way from that of the prisoners of other nationalities, including German soldiers. No British prisoners were in the local "Revier Stube" (sick bay).

Of the men mentioned in the list furnished by the German Foreign Office, of which a copy was sent to London on the 31st January, Corporals Bonnick, Jennings, Orton, and Shelton, Privates Bramble, Dale, Farrell, Goodman, Hall, Sells, Todd, and Whittaker, and Gunner Watts are still in the prison, as are also the group of prisoners from Göttingen, the first two groups from Giessen (Langen-Halbach), Lance-Corporal O'Connor, and Private Richardson, all of whom were mentioned in my previous report.

Several other British prisoners of war have been brought to Cologne in the meantime, as follows:—

One group consisting of Sergeant Hamilton (2905), Northumberland Fusiliers, Corporals Wright (9767), Queen's, and Barton (10689), King's Royal Rifles, and Privates Tannar (8592), and Wakefield (10068), Queen's, and Privates Garner (7603), Bedfordshires, and Collman (9646), South Wales Borderers, had come from Sprottau. These men had received a six months' sentence for refusing to work in a sugar factory on the fourth Sunday after their detail. They had not been called on to work on the three preceding Sundays.

Corporal Crookes (10066), 1st Cheshires, had been brought from Friedrichsfeld b/Wesel, for refusal to work.

Corporal Vant (9412) and Private Halton (3018), East Kents, had come from Cassel with a seven months' sentence for refusal to work and disobedience of orders.

Corporal Lines (9569), Leicestershires, and Private Kemp (10470), East Kent, from Göttingen, had received a one year's sentence for refusing to work at canal digging.

Corporal Smith (7191), Norfolks, from Döberitz, had been sentenced to three years' imprisonment for making insulting remarks about the German Emperor.

Privates Davies (7993), Wiltshires, and Cooke (8790) South Staffords, had come from Ohrdruf under sentence for refusing to work in the rain at a cement factory.

Private Ridgway (8564), South Staffords, had come from Altdamm under sentence for refusing to work in a sugar factory.

Privates Davies (34125), Welsh Regiment, and Geraghty (10380), Yorks, had been brought from Münster with two years' sentences, the former for disobedience of orders and the latter for striking a German soldier, as he claims, in self-defence.

Private Deal (1217), East Surreys, had also come from Münster with an eighteen months' sentence after a "row" with a German non-commissioned officer.

† See "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)," No. 67.

Digitized by Google

The reasons for the sentences as given above are those stated by the men themselves, and no effort was made to verify them by reference to the German authorities.

As mentioned above, the men are not satisfied with the food which is furnished to them, but their only other complaint was that they were treated exactly as German soldiers would be when found guilty of similar offences. An intimation that when their parcels contained articles which they are not permitted to receive such articles were appropriated by the German guards was investigated at once, and proved, in my opinion, to be unfounded. On the contrary, it appeared to me that there is a certain amount of latitude allowed with regard to what the prisoners are permitted to retain, and I was told that other articles were sent to British prisoners in the Cologne hospitals.

It was suggested that unobjectionable books and games (dominoes, &c., but not playing-cards) might be sent to the prisoners for their use. I was told that the suggestion made on my previous visit that the prisoners be allowed to have the white bread sent them from abroad instead of the brown bread provided by the German authorities could not be carried out in practice, owing, in part at least, to the fact that the regular receipt of supplies from abroad could not be counted upon.

The former commandant had left the prison a short time ago, and the new one, who seemed to take much interest in his work, had been on duty for a few days only.

At the time of my arrival all the prisoners in the "Gefängnis" were being mustered in the drill ground. My presence in Cologne had become known less than a quarter of an hour before my arrival, and I was permitted to talk with the British prisoners freely out of hearing of any German. In all there were fifteen British non-commissioned officers and fifty-two lance-corporals and privates present, with practically each one of whom I spoke individually.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

Enclosure 3 in No. 32.

Report by Mr. Jackson of Visit to Lazarets at Cologne, May 25, 1916.

THESE lazarets were visited by me on the 17th February, 1916.* On my arrival at Lazaret I to-day I found fourteen prisoners of war assembled in the court, awaiting their immediate transfer to Switzerland. Most of these men I had already seen in camps or hospitals. Some had been selected from the Cologne hospitals, others had come from Aachen, and one or two had come from the camp at Wahn. In this lazaret there were also twenty-two British prisoners, of whom Corporal Oliver is the senior. Some of the men whom I had seen on my earlier visit had already been repatriated. Private Cole was still in the hospital, too ill, it is said, to be moved. There was also one Indian prisoner, Ziada Khan, of the 7th Punjabs, who was wounded in the leg on the 2nd October, 1915, with whom I was able to talk through a Russian interpreter. My visit had been announced only a few minutes before my arrival, and I was permitted to talk freely with the prisoners without witnesses. Without exception the men said that their treatment was good and the food furnished to them was satisfactory. All, except the Indian, were in touch with their friends at home, and had received letters and parcels without unusual delay.

In Lazaret VI (Augusta Schule) I found about sixty British prisoners (and a few Serbians) with practically all of whom I spoke individually. One man whom I had seen in Aachen in February, who was depressed at the time owing to the fact that he had not been repatriated as anticipated, was now in good spirits and enthusiastic at the success of an operation which had restored the use of his leg. Generally the men were satisfied with their treatment and food, and the only complaint made was with regard to the receipt of parcels from the camp at Wahn. It appears that parcels containing bread sent from Switzerland on the 21st March had been received at the same time as those sent early in May, and that part of the bread had moulded. This complaint was brought to the attention of the German military inspector, who made a note of it for investigation.

In the Augusta Schule Lazaret there are now only three British officers (Captain Moodie, and Lieutenants C. B. Wilson and K. W. Gray), who are attended by two British soldiers, and who occupy, by themselves, the large room in which I saw them

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)," No. 66.

Digitized by Google

in February. These officers spoke well of the existing conditions, and their relations with the military inspector appeared to be particularly cordial. Captain W. Birt, East Surreys, had died a few weeks ago, and Captain Hutchinson and Lieutenants Reynolds and Insall had been transferred to officer camps.

As I found that the tobacco recently donated by the Imperial Tobacco Company had not been distributed in equal proportions to the prisoners in Lazarets I and VI, I arranged to have an extra case sent from the latter to the former hospital.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

Enclosure 4 in No. 32.

Report by Mr. Jackson of Visit to Prisoners' Detention Camp at Wesel, May 26, 1916.

HERE there are only two British prisoners: Lieutenant C. F. L. Templer (who confirmed the story told me at Magdeburg, on the 18th May, that he had been transferred in accordance with his own desire) and Lieutenant Ralph de B. Evans, Shropshires. Lieutenant Evans had commented in a letter on a German officer in a disrespectful manner and was sentenced in February to imprisonment for five months.

These two officers, and two French officers who are also serving court-martial sentences, are housed together in the "Festungsstubengefangenen-Anstalt" inside the citadel. Two officers, one of each nationality, share a good-sized room with a barred window looking out on the green and wooded enclosure, in which all four are permitted to walk together for half-an-hour both mornings and afternoons. All four take their meals together, and they said that the food provided is excellent. The commandant said that he would allow the two English officers to room together if they wished, but both said (when I talked to them together and without witnesses) that they prefer to remain as they are. The officers are permitted to bathe twice a week, but the commandant said that their request for permission to take a daily (cold shower) bath would be considered. Both said that they were in touch with their families and receive their letters and parcels regularly. They are at liberty to write letters under the usual rules.

Lieutenant Evans, whom I saw in a hospital at Paderborn on the 9th September, 1915, has not regained the use of his right arm and is still undergoing massage treatment. Attention was called to his case to the end that he be examined by the Swiss medical commission, with a view to his possible transfer to Switzerland in July, after he has served out his sentence.

JOHN B. JACKSON.

No. 33.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 8.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 30th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a report on the detention camps at Erfurt and Langensalza.

American Embassy, London, June 7, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 33.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, May 30, 1916.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of reports of visits made by Drs. A. E. Taylor and D. J. McCarthy to the British prisoners in the detention camps at Erfurt on the 18th May and at Langensalza on the 19th May.

I have. &c.

JAMES W. GERARD.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 2 in No. 33.

Report of an Inspection of the Detention Camp at Erfurt made by Drs. Taylor and McCarthy on Thursday, May 18, 1916.

THE plan and organisation of this camp has already been described in a report made by Mr. Jackson on the 24th April, 1915.*

Within the last three weeks this camp has been evacuated, the prisoners of war, with the exception of a small number necessary for the care of the place, having been transferred to Langensalza. Fifteen British are still retained at the camp, and in addition to the work about the camp they are occasionally employed in unloading coal at the railway station. When so employed they are paid at the rate of 50 pfennigs per day. Sergeant Thomas Massey, 1st Dorsetshire Regiment, reported that there was no complaint to be made as to treatment, housing, or food. The men occasionally ate the camp food, but depended mainly on their packages, which came regularly. The men likewise had no complaints to make. They were housed in a barrack room 72 by 24 by 12 feet; two windows and a large doorway with two windows and a doorway in the adjoining barrack room gave sufficient light and ventilation. Built-in bunks of wood construction with straw mattresses furnished the sleeping arrangements. All the men had sufficient clothes, underclothes, and shoes.

The baths were satisfactory, and the men were permitted to bathe as often as they chose.

The latrines were of the trench type and in good condition.

While the packages arrived regularly, as above stated, letters had not been received for six weeks. The attention of the camp authorities was called to this, and they promised to look into the matter and correct it as far as possible. It is quite possible, they stated, that the transfer of the parent camp to Langensalza might be responsible for the delay.

ALONZO E. TAYLOR.

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 14 (1915)," No. 8.

Enclosure 3 in No. 33.

Report of an Inspection of the Camp at Langensalza by Drs. Taylor and McCarthy, on Friday, the 19*th May,* 1916.

WE arrived at this camp, unannounced, at 10 A.M. We were received by the commandant, who assigned one of his staff to conduct us through the camp.

The General Plan of the Camp.—This camp is situated a short distance outside of the town of Langensalza. The camp is built on a level area surrounded by a rolling hill country, with forests of pine scattered here and there, and with a fine view from the camp. There are some sulphur springs in the neighbourhood, and the town is evidently a summer and health resort. The district in which the camp is situated has the advantage of a healthful location.

The camp is divided into two general divisions at the present time, the camp proper to the south, and the division for the "Unwillige," or those who are unwilling to work, to the north. Both divisions were in the same enclosure—surrounded by a barbed wire barrier—and divided into sections by wire fencing.

North Division.—The north division, referred to as the department of the "Unwillige," is composed of tent barracks, in two divisions, an east and a west division. In the east division, where the British "Unwillige" are housed, there is a group of a triple-gable barrack, a double-gable and a single-gable barrack.

The triple-gable barrack is, as far as the walls are concerned, a wood enclosure about 180 by 90 feet; the roof is of canvas and arranged as three tents, *i.e.*, three gables running the length of the building. The height of the walls is approximately 12 feet, the ridge pole of the tent top is 16 feet. There are 15 windows on either side, with doors at the end. This arrangement gives practically three barracks, the outside barracks getting a fair amount of light, the central barrack division on account of the low roof getting very little light; as a matter of fact the bunks in this area were quite dark even approaching midday.

Inasmuch as the British were lodged in the middle division, we consider this a poor arrangement. The ventilation of this central barrack is difficult to arrange, and on the day of our visit this part of the building was decidedly stuffy.

Digitized by Google

There were confined in this building 575 prisoners of war, Russian, British, and French, of whom 61 are British. Of the 61 British, 3 were sergeants, 27 corporals, and 30 privates.

The beds were of the bunk type, arranged transversely across the tent division. The British were lodged in the central tent division and a few on the side division. The bunks were built in, of wood, the lower tier a short distance above the floor, the upper tier 4 feet above this. The bedding was of the straw-mattress type. The arrangement is faulty in the sense that the central barrack lacks both light and good ventilation.

The latrines for this division were of the iron receptacle semi-tubular type, open, and flushed into an underground drainage system. The surroundings, floors, &c., were poorly cared for, and could be cleaner than they were at the time of our inspection.

The sixty-one men of this division were then lined up for inspection.

The ranking non-commissioned officer was Jos. H. Sherry, 1st West Kent Regiment. He reported to us that the men had been recently transferred to this camp from other camps, Erfurt, &c. That shortly after arriving at this camp they had been asked to go out to work, and all those who had not volunteered were transferred from the south division of the camp to the north division, and certain liberties withdrawn. They were not permitted to smoke, to play cards, they could not have hot water for tea, and were not permitted to attend or play games, football, &c.; that they were locked up in this sense of the term for refusing to volunteer for work. He further stated that they had difficulty in getting drinking water at night. In the enclosure was a water tap, over which had previously hung a card warning against the use of the water as it was under suspicion of being typhoidal. From 9 P.M. to 6 A.M. there was no other water available to the men, who, if they felt thirsty during the nights, were thus compelled to wait until morning or risk taking the suspected water. After an examination of the water the sign had been removed, but that nevertheless the men were afraid to use the water on account of the previous notice. The men were well clothed, but the shoes of some of the men were in poor condition.

The two other sergeants then complained of the fact that they should not be confined in "Strafbaracken" for refusing to work, because there was no obligation on their part, as non-commissioned officers, to work unless they volunteered; that they had broken no rules of the camp, and could not understand why they should be so treated.

When requests or complaints were asked of the other men lined up, ten men stepped out of line and stated that they were ill or unfit for work on account of various complaints.

One corporal stated that he had been roughly handled and kicked by a German under-officer. The man stated that he had been given an order to place up his blanket; that while he was proceeding to do as he had been told he was kicked by the under-officer. He stated that he had not refused to obey, that he had made no disrespectful reply, and that his obedience to the order was not dilatory.

Packages had arrived regularly, but they had had no letters for the last six weeks. They complained that the food was poor and not fit to eat.

South Division.—The main division of the camp, the south division, is composed of barracks, built of wood, of the usual single-gable type, 70 feet by 100 feet floor space; side walls, 10 feet; gable apex, 15 feet, with a small ventilating flue at the top of the barrack. There are ten windows on either side of the barrack. The beds are of the built-in bunk type, in double tiers. The bedding is of the usual straw mattress type. There are forty British in this division, all housed in one of the above-described barracks. In this barrack there are 250 men.

The forty British were lined up for inspection. They had good clothes and shoes.

The ranking non-commissioned officer was Sergeant Ch. T. Jackson, 1st Lancashire Regiment.

Three other sergeants were in this division. Of the forty men, nineteen stated that they had been wounded, and two had wounds that were not as yet entirely healed.

This group had no complaints to make. They requested that some place be furnished them for cooking and heating the food received from home in their packages.

The packages arrived regularly, but there was the same delay in letters as referred to in the north division.

Bathing facilities were furnished in a combined bath and disinfection building. There were twenty-four showers; two baths per week were permitted.

Digitized by Google

The rations of the camp are not provided by the military authorities directly, the kitchens being still operated through contract by a caterer. While we were in the wooden barrack in which the one group of British prisoners were housed the food for the noonday meal was brought in. Following our interview with the men as detailed above we inspected the food that had been brought in. It had been transferred from the kitchen in an uncovered container, and from its appearances gave very little indication of its contents. One of us (A.E.T.) tasted the food, which was composed largely of sauerkraut and potatoes with a small amount of dried fish. The dish presented the appearance of a soft potato mash. It had not only the sour taste of the sauerkraut, but had, in addition, an acrid and disagreeable flavour. Here and there were small portions of hard fish, which, when tasted by themselves, also presented a disagreeable taste. It was not possible to decide by taste whether the disagreeable quality was due to decomposition of the sauerkraut or the fish, to some feature in the original conservation of these two articles, or to something that had occurred in the cooking.

Later we inspected the kitchen, which is a long structure containing twenty-nine large kettles. The kitchen floor and the kettles were clean. We requested permission to taste the food, and were advised that all the food had been sent to the barracks. Nevertheless, we requested that a search of the different kettles or of other dishes be made in order to obtain a small amount of the food for sampling, since we wished to compare it with that which was tasted in the British barrack, in order to determine whether the conditions found there were representative of the whole, or might, possibly, have been an accidental result in the process of cooking in a particular kettle. We were told that absolutely all of the food had been sent to the barracks. The diet of the camp, according to the statement of the contractor, follows in general the diet plan of the Ministry of War, and a perusal of the diet sheet for the week furnished us by him confirms this statement. According to this diet sheet, the diet for the week contained on an average 88 grammes of protein, 28 grammes of fat, 500 grammes of carbohydrate, corresponding to 2,716 calories, and the cost to the camp per prisoner was stated to be 63·68 pfennige per man per day. The present menu of the War Ministry furnishes 90 grammes protein, 30 grammes fat, and 551 grammes carbohydrates, corresponding to 2,916 calories, at a cost determined to be 85·7 pfennige per day. In the figure of the contractor, 63·68 pfennige is, we infer, also included his profit in the transaction. The diet for the day was: breakfast, coffee and bread; dinner, dish [*sic*] and fish roe, sauerkraut, potatoes, and onion; supper, tea and boiled potatoes, bread. The bread provided is not baked in camp, but secured from the outside, and is the "K. K." war bread.

There is a kitchen book in which is entered each day the report of the inspection of the food by the physician of the day. For the food of the day of our visit there stood the entry "Gut."

The hospital was inspected and found to be satisfactory.

In the hospital, at the time of our visit, there were fourteen British, all of whom had been recently transferred to this camp and were waiting exchange to England.

Before leaving the camp we again called on the commandant and called his attention to the complaints of the men. He stated that the men in the north division barracks were not punished for refusing to volunteer to work; that merely certain privileges permitted prisoners were withdrawn. We then called to his attention that, notwithstanding this, these barracks had been referred to repeatedly throughout our inspection, by the staff officer who accompanied us, as "Strafbaracken." We particularly called his attention to the case of the non-commissioned officers and the men, who stated that they, on account of their wounds or illness, were unfit for work.

The commandant stated that he had only been in charge of this camp for a few days and was not as yet conversant with all the details; he promised to give the matter his serious attention.

ALONZO E. TAYLOR.

Digitized by Google

No. 34.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 8.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 31st ultimo, transmitting copies of reports on visits made to the British prisoners of war at Neisse and Gnadenfrei, Silesia.

American Embassy, London, June 7, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 34.

Mr. Gerard to Mr Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, May* 31, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of reports of visits made by Surgeon Karl Ohnesorg, United States navy, and Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel, to the British prisoners of war at Neisse and Gnadenfrei, Silesia, on the 25th May.

I have, &c.
JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 34.

Mr. Dresel and Dr. Ohnesorg to Mr. Gerard.

Sir,

WE have the honour to submit the following report of a visit (not previously announced) made by Dr. Karl Ohnesorg and Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel to the officers' detention camp and the hospital at Neisse, Silesia, on the 25th May, 1916:—

Previous Reports.—This camp was previously visited on the 20th August, 1915, and on the 19th January, 1916, and reports of these visits, dated respectively the 23rd August, 1915, and the 20th January, 1916, have been duly forwarded.*

Number of Prisoners.—831 officer prisoners of various nationalities are detained in the camp, of whom eight are British. These last are the same as those specified in the list annexed to the report of the 23rd August, 1915. There are in all 195 orderlies, of whom one is British.

Description of Camp.—The camp has been fully described in previous reports. There is, however, a noticeable improvement in the general appearance of the camp, and the grounds are better kept.

Barracks.—The accommodations are the same as those previously described. The large room still occupied by the officers is comfortable and well ventilated.

Post and Parcels.—Parcels were stated to be received promptly. Some delay in the receipt of letters was reported, not however due, as was believed, to local conditions.

Food.—The messing arrangements have been previously described. The food for the French and British is now, however, prepared by a highly competent French cook, under the supervision of a committee made up of French officers, at an expense of 1·50 M. a day for each officer. It is said to be very fairly satisfactory. Meat is served four times a week. A translation of a week's bill of fare is hereto annexed.

Exercise.—Until recently the officers have been taken for walks two or three times a week, not under parole, but with a single officer or guard in charge. These have temporarily been stopped by orders from the higher authorities on account of an attempted escape by an officer not of British nationality, but the Kommandant told us that he expected to be able to resume them in another week. He is also making arrangements by which the British officers will be enabled to hire a tennis court

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)," No. 55.

Digitized by Google

outside the camp. Their requests also to be allowed to obtain the use of a football field and to swim in the river will, as was stated, be given favourable consideration, if possible.

Visits to the town for the purpose of making purchases in company of a single guard are frequently allowed.

Committees.—There is a general committee of four members of whom one is British, which consults on occasion as to matters affecting the welfare of the camp, such as recreation, library, &c. Besides this, there is a special food committee referred to above, and also two Russian food committees.

Medical Attendance and Hospital.—Light and temporary cases of illness are attended to at an infirmary in the camp. Patients severely ill or in need of surgical treatment are removed to a large hospital in the town. This was visited on the present occasion, and two British officers were found to have been quartered there for the last six weeks for further treatment of their wounds. Both officers were doing well, spoke appreciatively of their treatment, and had no complaints.

Recreation.—The riding hall mentioned in previous reports has now been fitted up as a theatre. The British prisoners have a grand piano in their room. A number of British officers are studying Russian or some other language.

Complaints.—No complaints of any kind were made to us by the officers. The one British orderly expressed himself, on account of want of companionship, to be anxious to be transferred back to the camp from which he came, and it was promised that this would be arranged.

General Observations and Remarks.—The British prisoners, without exception, are in excellent health, and vigorous and alert in appearance. Conditions in this camp have steadily improved and the general impression is favourable. The new commandant, who has only been in charge for a few weeks, is greatly liked, and appears to be making sincere efforts to increase the privileges and comforts of the prisoners.

We have, &c.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.
KARL OHNESORG

Enclosure 3 in No. 34.

BILL of Fare for Officers' Kitchen III from May 22 to May 28, 1916.

Day.	Dinner at Noon.	Supper.
Monday, May 22 ..	Vermicelli soup, boiled beef, potatoes	Vegetable soup, cheese-spaghetti.
Tuesday, May 23 ..	Radishes, scrambled eggs, potatoes, spinach, cherries	Vegetable soup, potatoes, lettuce.
Wednesday, May 24 ..	Vegetable soup, tenderloin of beef, potatoes	Vegetable soup, dried vegetables.
Thursday, May 25 ..	Radishes, boiled veal and rice, prunes	Vegetable soup, potato salad.
Friday, May 26 ..	Vegetable soup, fish and potatoes	Vegetable soup, smashed potatoes.
Saturday, May 27 ..	Vegetable soup, pork chops, potatoes	Vegetable soup, macaroni, lettuce.
Sunday, May 28 ..	Rollmops (herring), fried eggs and bacon, sorrel, cherries	Vegetable soup, rice and apricots.

Breakfast fare: ½ litre coffee.
The daily bread ration for a person is 250 grammes.

Neisse, May 20, 1916.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 4 in No. 34.

Mr. Dresel and Dr. Ohnesorg to Mr. Gerard.

Sir,

WE have the honour to submit herewith a report covering a visit of inspection made by Dr. Karl Ohnesorg and Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel to the officers' detention camp at Gnadenfrei, Silesia, on the 25th May, 1916 :—

Previous Reports.—This camp was visited on the 20th August, 1915, and the 19th January, 1916, and reports describing these visits were transmitted on the 23rd August, 1915, and the 20th January, 1916, respectively.*

Number of Prisoners.—About 350 officers of all nationalities are detained here, including, besides two British orderlies out of a total of sixty-five enlisted men, five British officers.

Description of Camp.—The camp has been fully described in the previous reports, and no repetition seems necessary.

Barracks.—The British officers occupy the same quarters as before, but as at the time of the present visit they were only five in number, there was no overcrowding.

Food.—Arrangements as to food, and quality and quantity, continue approximately as before. Attention would, it was stated, be given to a request which was transmitted to the Kommandant that eggs should occasionally be furnished. The reliance is largely on packages from home which are received in sufficient quantities.

Exercise.—Walks under guard have been taken regularly for some time, so arranged that each officer takes part in at least two in one week. The British often have opportunity to go out oftener, as officers of other nationalities do not always care to make use of their permits. The Kommandant occasionally goes out alone with the officers of higher rank. The gymnasium in the courtyard has been opened by the new Kommandant, who has been in charge for about a month, and is now used regularly for exercising and as a general gathering place. There is a good tennis court.

Complaints.—Objection was made by the officers to daily employment of the orderly detailed to attend them on miscellaneous work outside their quarters. On reporting this difficulty it was promised immediate adjustment.

General Observations.—The new Kommandant has been responsible for several improvements, and conditions are distinctly better than at the dates of the previous visits.

We have, &c.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.
KARL OHNESORG.

* See " Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)," No. 55.

No. 35.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 14.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 7th instant, referring to Sir Edward Grey's note of the 22nd May, and enclosing a copy of a report concerning the food supplied to the prisoners of war in the camp at Schneidemühl.

American Embassy, London, June 13, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 35.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

THE American Embassy in Berlin presents its compliments to the American Embassy in London, and, with reference to the latter's communication of the 23rd ultimo, enclosing a copy of the British Foreign Office's note of the 22nd May, has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a report made by Drs. D. J. McCarthy and A. E. Taylor in regard to the food furnished to the prisoners of war in the camp at Schneidemühl. There were only about 2,900 prisoners, of whom 127 were British, in the camp when it was visited on the 2nd instant.

American Embassy, Berlin, June 7, 1916.

Digitized by Google

Enclosure 2 in No. 25.

Report by Drs. McCarthy and Taylor.

ONLY two of the kitchens are in operation. One was inspected early in the day and found to present a clean and orderly appearance. The second kitchen was inspected at the time that the food was served, and likewise found to be in a clean and orderly condition.

The subsistence of the camp is under the direct management of the Kommandant. The "Kriegsbrot" (K.K.) is baked in the camp. We inspected the bakery in course of operation. The dough is prepared of rye flour and potato mash in the proportion of 60 to 80, 1 ton of flour (2,000 lb.) yielding about 2,900 lb. of bread. The bread is stored for four or five days before being used. A loaf was cut for us, and, on inspection and to the taste, we found it a representative sample of K.K. bread.

The fresh meat of the camp—beef—is slaughtered within the camp. The diet list for the week follows in general the diet list of the "Kriegsministerium" prepared by Professor Backhaus, except that on the days when beef is served the ration is 65 instead of 100 grams. The diet for the day of our visit was as follows:—

	Grams.
Breakfast—	
Bread (daily ration)	300
Coffee, *plus* coffee substitute	5
Sugar	5
Dinner—	
Salt fish	50
Roe	150
Potatoes	600
Soja meal	10
Desiccated vegetables	10
Soja oil	10
Salt	5
Supper—	
Barley	40
Cornmeal	30
Potatoes	200
Margarine	5
Tea	2
Sugar	5

We tasted of the noon meal, which, as everywhere in prisoner of war camps, is prepared as a thick soup, and found it to possess the normal taste of the ingredients and to be of good flavour.

We visited also three of the storage warehouses, one above ground in which dry articles of food were stored, the others below ground in which such supplies were kept as require a low temperature. All of the storehouses present a sweet, natural odour. In the one subterranean storehouse we saw several open barrels of pickled pork of excellent grade. The barrels of sauerkraut, salted string beans, and conserved fish presented the normal and natural odour of these products.

All the British were questioned in reference to the camp food. They stated that they did not like it, and, since they received from home sufficient supplies in their packages, practically none of them took the food, they even refusing the boiled potatoes. Out of the forty-seven men in the camp, for example, only three had taken the food on the day previous to our visit, and only these three men intended eating the food of the camp on the day of inspection. The men stated that their food packages came through regularly, and their contents were sufficient for their complete subsistence.

We visited the canteen, which presented a well-stocked and orderly appearance. The following is a list of the principal articles offered for sale: Condensed milk, canned fruits (peaches, cherries, apricots), lemonade, tinned meat, tobacco, coffee, honey, biscuits, soda water, goose liver, paper, cocoa, cakes, sardines, lemons, lard, ink, glassware and crockery, and of perishable vegetables, potatoes, onions, and sauerkraut.

Facilities for cooking food from the parcels were provided in the form of small stoves in an open space outside the barracks.

Digitized by Google

No. 36.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 14.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Ambassador at Berlin, dated the 6th instant, enclosing a copy of a report of a visit to the prisoner of war camp at Neu-Strelitz.

American Embassy, London, June 13, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 36.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, June* 6, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a report of a visit to the prisoners of war camp at Neu-Strelitz, which was made by Dr. Karl Ohnesorg, surgeon, United States Navy, and Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel on the 30th May, 1916.

I have, &c.

JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 36.

Mr. Dresel and Dr. Ohnesorg to Mr. Gerard.

Sir,

WE have the honour to submit herewith a report covering a visit of inspection to the non-commissioned officers' camp at Neu-Strelitz, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, made without previous announcement by Dr. Karl Ohnesorg and Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel on the 30th May, 1916.

Previous Reports.—This camp, instituted in March 1915, has not been previously visited, as no British prisoners were detained here until this spring.

Number of Prisoners.—The total number of prisoners of all nationalities, including Russians, French, British, and Belgians, is 1,059. Of these 49 are British, divided as follows according to rank:—

Warrant officer	1
Sergeant-majors	5
Sergeants	20
Corporals or lance-corporals	22
Private	1
Total	49

The senior in charge is warrant officer Clifton, Royal Marines. Of the British, 19 were transferred here from the camp at Güstrow, and the remainder from other camps in the north.

Description of Camp.—The camp is auxiliary to the main detention camp at Güstrow, on which it is dependent as far as important matters of administration are concerned. It is situated in the open country on dry and sandy soil. The air is pure and climatic conditions favourable. The camp reservation is unusually ample.

Barracks.—There are twenty-nine wooden barracks, all uniform, for housing the men, each intended for 100 prisoners. Each of these barracks is divided, a half-barrack forming a separate unit with entrances at the end and at the side. The British are quartered alone in such a half-barrack, 162 feet by 21 feet in size, and about 10 feet high, giving sufficient floor space. The ventilation is wholly by skylights of which there are twenty-eight in the roof of each barrack. It is sufficient, except in rainy weather, when it becomes necessary to close the skylights, and when the atmosphere is said to become close. The men sleep in one tier on the usual straw mattresses, which are taken up during the day. Warrant officer Clifton and four of the sergeant-majors occupy a small separate room, which has just been partitioned off from the remainder of the barrack. Electric lights are provided, and there are a sufficient number of iron stoves.

Digitized by Google

Kitchen and Food.—There are four kitchens, in one of which two British, with the assistance of some French, cooks prepare the meals for all British and for some of the French prisoners. The authorities only furnish the materials, and the food is cooked by the prisoners as they choose, there being no definite bill of fare provided for the week as in most camps. There was no specific complaint of the fare, and it was stated that the soup was palatable; as usual, however, the reliance was very largely on packages from home.

Canteen.—The canteen, of moderate size, is very fairly well stocked. The British buy pickles, tinned fruit, sausages, sweets, tinned milk, blacking, matches, &c.; and artificial honey, tobacco, biscuits, various articles of clothing, &c., can also be procured. The prisoners are also allowed to purchase articles they require from town by applying to the canteen manager. For this purpose the camp money, which alone is issued them in payment for money orders, is exchanged for currency.

Post and Parcel Office.—The chief post office for the camp is at Güstrow, and all letters are sent back there to be censored. There was some complaint as to the length of time which elapsed before they finally came into the hands of the recipients, the average period for transmission from England being thirty days. Parcels now arrive direct at the camp. One British non-commissioned officer is detailed for work in the post office.

Sanitary Arrangements.—The latrines, which are four in number, contain concrete tanks with individual wooden seats, and are emptied once a week. They are sufficient, clean, and free from odour. Baths are taken once a week in a well-arranged bathhouse provided with twenty showers. There are ample arrangements for washing clothes, sinks for the purpose being at the disposal of the prisoners at any time.

Medical Attendance and Hospital.—The lazaret, which is in a separate barrack, contains in all thirty-six beds, and includes a ward for infectious diseases, examining room, bath-room, &c. All the arrangements are clean and orderly. At the time of the visit only one patient, a Russian, was found in the lazaret, and the camp is stated at no time to have had any epidemics. Severe cases are sent to the hospital in the town for treatment.

Work.—Outside of occasional pumping and dragging the cart containing packages and letters, which is attended to by each barrack once in twenty days, the British are not employed in the camp.

Clothing.—The British are in receipt of sufficient clothing and shoes from England, and present an excellent appearance.

Exercise.—The opportunities for exercise are, in our opinion, sufficient.

Committees.—No committees have been formed in the camp, as the small number of prisoners does not seem to render it necessary.

Recreation, &c.—No theatre, music, or other recreation is permitted, the ground being that no special privileges are to be accorded to non-commissioned officers unwilling to volunteer for work. The prisoners have a small library, and many of them are studying French and German.

Complaints.—The only serious complaint heard was in relation to the condition in which packages arrived up to two weeks ago. It was stated that in several cases they arrived in a broken condition with part of the contents missing. Since they had been arriving direct at the camp there had been no difficulty on this score, As at other camps, the rate of exchange at which money orders were cashed (20·42), and the fact that only camp money was received was felt to be a hardship. These matters appeared to be beyond the jurisdiction of the commandant, and no formal representations were therefore made to him.

General Observations.—The conditions at this camp are distinctly favourable, and the men were cheerful and reasonably contented. They were, as they themselves state, in robust health, and there were no disabilities of any kind among them. The relations with the camp authorities are good, and the commandant is liked.

We have, &c.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.
KARL OHNESORG.

No. 37.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of

Digitized by Google

his Excellency's note of the 7th instant enclosing reports by Mr. Jackson of the United States Embassy at Berlin on his visit to the prisons and lazarets in Cologne and Wesel.*

With regard to the report on the prison at Cologne, Sir E. Grey regrets to observe that the food supplied to the prisoners has deteriorated, and that certain British prisoners are serving a sentence for refusing to work in a sugar factory on Sunday. It is not possible to maintain that such work is of an urgent character.

Sir E. Grey would be glad if he could be informed as to the nature of the work which Corporal Crookes, Corporal Vant, and Private Halton refused to perform.

He would also be glad of more exact information as to the offences committed by Private Davies (Welsh Regiment), and Privates Geraghty and Deal.

Sir E. Grey notes the refusal of the German authorities to allow the prisoners to receive white bread from abroad on the ground that the regular receipt of supplies from abroad cannot be counted on. This reason does not appear to Sir E. Grey an adequate one, especially in view of the deterioration of the food furnished by the German authorities.

Sir E. Grey is glad to learn that the conditions at the lazarets at Cologne and Wesel, and at the prison at Wesel, are generally satisfactory, and he will be much obliged if his thanks could be conveyed to Mr. Jackson for his reports.

Foreign Office, June 15, 1916.

* See No. 32.

No. 38.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency's note of the 7th instant, transmitting copies of reports by Dr. Ohnesorg and Mr. E. L. Dresel on the internments camps at Neisse and Gnadenfrei.†

He would be greatly obliged if Mr. Page would be good enough to convey to the United States Ambassador at Berlin and to the authors Sir E. Grey's thanks for the trouble which they have taken in connection with those reports.

Foreign Office, June 15, 1916.

† See No. 34.

No. 39.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to request that his best thanks may be conveyed to Dr. Ohnesorg and Mr. Dresel for the report on their visit to the camp at Neu-Strelitz, copy of which accompanied his Excellency's note of the 13th instant.‡

Foreign Office, June 16, 1916.

‡ See No. 36.

No. 40.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency's note of the 13th instant enclosing a copy of a report by Dr. D. I. McCarthy and Dr. A. E. Taylor in regard to the food furnished to the prisoners of war in the camp at Schneidemühl.§

Sir E. Grey would be much obliged if his thanks could be conveyed to these gentlemen for their interesting report.

Foreign Office, June 16, 1916.

§ See No. 35.

Digitized by Google

No. 41.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 21.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Ambassador at Berlin, dated the 14th instant, enclosing copies of reports on the working camp at Treuenbrietzen, and the officers' camps at Mainz, Friedberg, and Blankenburg.

American Embassy, London, June 20, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 41.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, June* 14, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of reports of visits made by Dr. Karl Ohnesorg, surgeon, United States Navy, and Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel, to the working camp at Treuenbrietzen, on the 7th June, and the officers' camp at Mainz on the 8th, and by Mr. Dresel to the officers' camps at Friedberg on the 9th June and at Blankenburg on the 10th.

I have, &c.
JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 41.

Mr. Dresel and Dr. Ohnesorg to Mr. Gerard.

Sir, *Berlin, June* 14, 1916.

WE have the honour to submit herewith a report made by Dr. Karl Ohnesorg and Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel, covering a first visit of inspection to the working camp at Treuenbrietzen on the 7th June, 1916.

There was no specific announcement of the time of our visit, an earlier visit of which notice was given, according to the requirements in force as to working camps, having had to be postponed.

Number of Prisoners.—Of a total of thirty prisoners, sixteen were found to be British, the remainder being French and Russian. Some of the British have been at the camp since January of this year; the remainder since March.

Description of Camp.—The camp, an offshoot of Wittenberg, is a small enclosure surrounded by farm buildings, in the midst of a village. The surroundings are not unattractive and the climate is good.

Barracks.—The men are quartered in an old one-storey building, containing two sleeping-rooms and a kitchen. The larger of these, 27 by 21 feet in size, contains twenty prisoners, and the smaller, 15 by 12 feet in size, quarters ten. The beds are wooden frames containing the usual straw mattresses, and two blankets are provided. The lighting and ventilation are sufficient, and there is an iron stove in each room.

Kitchen.—A small kitchen, which is reasonably neat and clean, adjoins the sleeping quarters. The cook, a German, is assisted by a French prisoner.

Food.—The usual complaints of the food were heard, and the supplies received in packages form the chief diet of the prisoners. The mid-day meal is, however, eaten in part, and the soup was said to be "passable," and better than it was some months ago. Meat is served three times a week, the quantity being 100 grammes (about $3\frac{1}{3}$ oz.) on each occasion, and, in addition, sausage at two meals a week. The allowance of bread is 400 grammes (about 13 oz.). The food was not being prepared at the time of the visit, but an examination of the bill of fare showed considerable variety and not inadequate quantities. A question was raised whether the British were in all cases given the option of refusing or accepting all the articles on the bill of fare, and the officer in charge of the camp promised to see that there should be no doubt in future as to the opportunity being afforded.

Canteen.—A small cupboard contained a few articles for sale, but the supply could

Digitized by Google

hardly be called adequate. It was stated that the prisoners were allowed to go into town under guard to make their purchases.

Post and Parcels.—Packages and letters are examined at, and forwarded from, Wittenberg. There were no complaints on this score, and the men stated that they each received about three parcels a week.

Sanitary Arrangements.—The latrine, which is situated at a sufficient distance from the sleeping quarters, is somewhat primitive, but clean and unobjectionable. The earth system is used.

Baths are taken once a week at the railroad station in the immediate neighbourhood. Complaint was made that no hot water was provided, and it was promised to rectify this at once. Opportunities are afforded for cooking the food received in packages either in the kitchen or outside.

Medical Attendance and Hospital.—The railroad physician can be consulted every morning from 8 to 10, but any serious cases are sent to Wittenberg. The health in the camp has been uniformly good.

Work.—The labour of the prisoners is exclusively on the railroad, under the direction of the local Government superintendent, and consists in repairing the track, emptying waggons of sand, building up the banks, and general "navvy" work. The prisoners leave the camp at 6 A.M. on foot, start work, on the average, at 6·30, work for an hour, and then have breakfast until 8·30. Dinner, which is brought to the men on a push-cart, propelled by two men detailed from work for the purpose, is from 12 to 1, and work continues until 5 or 5·30 P.M. according to the distance from camp. If the distance is considerable, the men are sent back by train. The pay is 65 pfennigs a day, being 25 per cent. of the wages of free workmen, the balance being retained for the keep of the men. There was no especial complaint of the nature of the work, but when the camp was started, several men refused to work on the ground that the soup was uneatable, and were sent back to Wittenberg in consequence. There is no Sunday work. A man is detailed each day on fatigue duty in the camp, and on that day does not work outside.

Clothing.—All the men have overcoats and leather boots. Complaint was made by one man that he had not been provided with a pair of trousers for which he had put in an application. This was reported to the commandant, who promised to forward a second request at once to the authorities and to see that the man was properly supplied.

Exercise.—The men are allowed to play football in a field outside the camp. They are also occasionally taken to walk along the road under guard.

Complaints.—Besides the complaints as to the food no others were heard, except those above mentioned, viz., the want of hot water for bathing, and the failure to supply clothing to one man.

General Observations and Remarks.—The men were in good physical condition, and stated that the outdoor work agreed with them. They said that their treatment was satisfactory, and that their relations with the commandant were good. On the whole, conditions here appear to us not to be subject to serious criticism, and the camp seems to be well up to the average of country camps of the kind.

We have, &c.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.
KARL OHNESORG.

Enclosure 3 in No. 41.

Mr. Dresel and Dr. Ohnesorg to Mr. Gerard.

Sir, *Berlin, June* 14, 1916.

WE have the honour to submit herewith a report by Dr. Karl Ohnesorg and Mr. Ellis Loring Dresel covering a visit of inspection made, without previous announcement, to the officers' camp at Mainz on the 8th instant.

Previous Reports.—This camp has been previously visited and described on several occasions, the last reports being dated the 22nd April, the 26th June, and the 20th December, 1915.* Since the last visit there has been no very material change in general conditions.

Number of Prisoners.—On the date of the visit 398 officers and 132 orderlies were

* See "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)," No. 41.

Digitized by Google

detained in the camp. Of these, 114 officers and 3 men were British. In this number were included 37 British officers who had been collected from various camps with a view to a transfer to Switzerland under the international arrangement. Seven officers who had taken part in the recent naval battle had arrived at the camp three days before our visit.

As on a previous occasion, a complete list of the prisoners was refused; but on reporting this to the Inspection Department, orders were issued to prepare and forward a list without delay.

Description of Camp, Barracks, &c.—The camp and internal arrangements have been described in previous reports, making repetition unnecessary.

Food.—The fare is in accordance with the general regulations, but is not relished by the officer prisoners. Meat is served five times a week, the weekly amount being 600 grammes (20 oz.). Vegetables can be bought in the town if desired. It is considered a hardship that the prisoners have to pay a daily sum for food, which they only eat in small part. Complaint was also made to the effect that ham, herrings, &c., were served raw, and that officers were not allowed to take such articles of food to their rooms, in order to cook them.

Canteen.—The canteen is unusually well stocked, and the system by which every officer has a separate book to record his purchases is satisfactory and methodical. The profits are expended for the welfare of the camp.

Post, Parcels, &c.—Packages were being received with due regularity. As in most officers' camps, however, great exception was taken to the rate—about 20·41—at which cheques were cashed in the camp; and of late, in several instances, officers have refused to accept cash on this basis. A further rule has been established at the camp that only cheques passing through The Hague will be honoured, and we were told that all cheques of the American Express Company drawn at Rotterdam were refused payment. Complaint was further made that cheques on English banks, drawn by officer prisoners and forwarded home by them, had never reached their destination. This did not, however, appear to be due to the censorship at the camp itself. Similar representations were also made in regard to letters written from the camp relating to private business matters of the sender, which, as was alleged, generally failed of receipt. Further enquiry outside of the camp will be necessary to establish the reason for these difficulties.

Sanitary Arrangements.—The latrines in two of the buildings (Nos. 1 and 3) leave much to be desired. In one of these there is no water flushing, and the arrangements were primitive and not over clean. In the other, the only trap was out of repair, and access was not possible to a latrine situated on the upper floor. For night use, receptacles were, as was stated, immediately to be placed in the entries, the latrines in No. 2 building being available for use during the day.

The bathing arrangements are entirely adequate.

Hospital.—A visit was made to the hospital in the town (Rheinstrasse) on the same day. This is a large establishment for Germans as well as military prisoners, comprising several brick buildings surrounding a good sized garden with gravel walks. Here were found some officers awaiting the arrival of the Swiss Commission with a view to their transfer, and in the meantime receiving treatment from specialists.

The regular officers were quartered together in a good sized and well aired room. There was considerable complaint of the food, though one of the non-commissioned officers stated it to be satisfactory. Two officers who had been kept on a special diet (Form II) at other hospitals complained because here they were kept on lower rations (Form I). This, as well as a request for more opportunity to exercise in the garden, at present limited to one hour in the morning and one in the afternoon, was reported to the medical officer in charge.

Exercise.—Walks under parole are now taken at least once a week. There are several tennis courts, and opportunity for hockey and football.

Complaints.—The objections to the latrines were taken up with the Commandant and the Inspection Department at Frankfurt-Main and an investigation was promised.

The food question was also discussed, but it was stated that no change in the arrangements was practicable.

The complaints in regard to the difficulties of cashing cheques will, as was stated, be given attention.

Representations made by the officers that they were annoyed by constantly having to change their rooms were met with a statement that this was inevitable in view of the constant new arrivals.

A source of discontent during the winter months was the length of time—fourteen

Digitized by Google

or fifteen hours on a stretch, from 4·30 P.M. until 7 A.M.—during which the officers were confined to the barracks. They are, however, at this season allowed to stay out until dark.

The British orderlies had no complaints, and their quarters at the top of one of the buildings are well ventilated and sufficient in floor space. There is now no difficulty about an adequate number of orderlies, this cause of complaint having been removed by the assignment of orderlies of other nationalities to the British officers.

General Observations.—The health and appearance of the prisoners is good. Conditions are not unfavourable, though the long detention has had its effect on the spirits of some of the officers.

We have, &c.
ELLIS LORING DRESEL.
KARL OHNESORG.

Enclosure 4 in No. 41.

Mr. Dresel to Mr. Gerard.

Sir, *Berlin, June* 14, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith a report of a visit of inspection made without previous announcement by me to the officers' camp at Friedberg, Hessen, on the 9th instant:—

Previous Reports.—The camp was previously visited in April, June, and December 1915, and reports of these visits, dated the 4th May, the 17th July, and the 20th December, 1915, of which the first and second give detailed descriptions, rendering repetition unnecessary, have been duly forwarded.

Number of Prisoners.—472 officers and 111 orderlies were found here, including 18 British officers and 4 men.

Barracks.—The officers are comfortably quartered without exception. The senior officer has a bedroom to himself, seven of the officers occupy a room 24 feet by 18 feet in size, and the remainder are divided up two to three to a room.

Food.—The mess arrangements are in the hands of a committee of three, including a Russian colonel, a French major, and a British officer. These submit a bill of fare to the commandant for approval. It is, however, in many cases impossible to obtain the materials called for, and changes are frequently necessary. Meat is served five times a week, 112 lb. being allowed on each occasion for the officers' use. The bread, which is issued every third day in loaves of fair size, was said to be palatable, and was so found on trial. There is some difficulty in providing potatoes of good quality at the present moment, and there was considerable complaint, but those being served on the day of the visit were not open to exception. Eggs are provided once a fortnight, and five can be bought at the canteen by each officer in each week for 25 pfennigs apiece. A ration of sugar is issued once a week.

As elsewhere, the dependence is principally on food supplies received in packages.

Canteen.—There were complaints as to the prices at the canteen, which are considered much too high. On reporting this to the Inspection Department at Frankfurt-Main, an immediate and thorough examination was promised.

Post and Parcels.—Letters since 1st April have taken about twenty days to reach the recipients. Parcels come through regularly in adequate number in from eleven to twenty days.

Sanitary Arrangements.—The latrines are now in fairly good condition. A more frequent use of disinfectants seems advisable, and was urged on the commandant.

Exercise.—A new tennis court is being built, and the opportunities for football, hockey, and other games are ample. Walks under parole are taken once a week, and occasionally from 15 to 20 miles have been covered. A request that officers should be allowed to go out twice in each week accompanied, if no officer was available, by a non-commissioned officer or a private was met by the statement that the military regulations of the district required a regular officer to be the leader on these expeditions, and that it would probably be impossible to find enough at liberty to provide for bi-weekly excursions.

Recreation.—The officers continue to take great interest in their gardens, and have shown much ingenuity in laying them out and providing them with rustic bowers, seats, &c. Some of the officers keep rabbits or birds.

Digitized by Google

Religious Services.—The English chaplain at Berlin has visited the camp twice, but no other arrangements for services have been made.

Complaints.—No complaints were heard except as to the matters above mentioned.

General Observations.—The camp produces a very favourable impression. The relations with the military authorities in charge continue to be excellent, and there has been no friction. The officers are in good health and reasonably cheerful, though, as elsewhere, the effects of the long detention are noticeable.

I have, &c.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.

Enclosure 5 in No. 41.

Mr. Dresel to Mr. Gerard.

Sir, *Berlin, June* 14, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to report that I paid a short visit to the officers' detention camp at Blankenburg, near Berlin, on Sunday, the 10th June. The camp has been reported on many times previously, and only a brief mention of some topics seems necessary.

Number of Prisoners.—There has been no change since previous reports except that two officers have left for Mainz with a view to their possible transfer to Switzerland under the international arrangement.

Food.—The present arrangements under the circumstances are very satisfactory. No fixed daily sum is paid for food, but the officers are allowed to order as they please, and though it is said that the prices are rather high, the plan appears to work very well. Meat cards are issued with an allowance of 1,200 grammes for eleven days. These are used partially, but by no means universally. The prices for meat average about 5·20 M. per lb. There are also sugar cards allowing the purchase of 2 lb. per month.

Post and Parcels.—The postal arrangements are satisfactory, and parcels arrive regularly and in abundance.

Exercise.—Recently walks on parole have been instituted and there is daily opportunity to take them if desired. The officers are also allowed to go into an enclosed wood in the neighbourhood of the town without guards on signing a card parole.

Complaints.—No complaints were made by the officers.

General Observations.—The conditions here continue to be exceptionally favourable, and the relations with the camp authorities are excellent.

I have, &c.

ELLIS LORING DRESEL.

No. 42.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency's note of the 20th instant, enclosing reports on the working camp at Treuenbrietzen, and the officers' camps at Mainz, Friedberg, and Blankenburg.

Sir E. Grey notes that each prisoner at Treuenbrietzen is allowed only 10 oz. of meat a week supplemented by some sausage, and he considers that such rations are entirely inadequate in the case of men performing manual labour.

Sir E. Grey learns with satisfaction that the various complaints made as to the camp at Mainz, including the rate of exchange at which cheques are cashed, have already been taken up.

He would be much obliged if his thanks could be conveyed to Dr. Ohnesorg and Mr. Dresel for their reports.

Foreign Office, June 26, 1916.

Digitized by Google

No. 43.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 28.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 19th instant, together with copies of a report made on the camp for officer prisoners of war at Colberg, Saxe-Meiningen.

American Embassy, London, June 27, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 43.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, June 19, 1916.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a report made by Mr. Jackson of a visit to the camp for officer prisoners of war at Colberg, Saxe-Meiningen, on the 16th June, 1916, and to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 43.

Report of Visit to Detention Camp at Colberg (Saxe-Meiningen).

AT Colberg, in Saxe-Meiningen, where thermal springs were discovered a few years ago, the buildings which were erected for the use of patients were transformed into a camp for officer prisoners of war last October. In addition to the permanent buildings, a number of wooden barracks have been erected, but these are not yet occupied. The "camp" is in attractive, healthy surroundings, and the barbed-wire enclosure is large. In it there is a lawn-tennis court, besides several pleasant paths and considerable open space, part of which has been turned over to the officer prisoners for gardening. One building, originally intended as a hospital for contagious diseases, is used as a church.

The camp contains at present about 140 officer prisoners, ten of whom are British. Four of the six British officers, who had been brought here from Bad Blenhorst when the camp was opened, were sent to Mainz a few days ago, with a view to their transfer to Switzerland. Eight more had recently been brought from Crefeld, after an attempt to escape, not as punishment, but in order to lessen the temptation to make further attempts, as their present camp is much farther from the frontier. One British soldier has been present in the camp as an officer's servant since it was opened. He is well and happy.

My visit to the camp had been announced in advance because it is several miles from any railway station and it was necessary to secure an automobile. With all the British prisoners I talked freely and without listeners. All were well and in good spirits, and none made any complaint. The two officers who came to the camp in the autumn share a room in a building occupied by Russian generals, and they said that they are satisfied with their accommodations. The remaining eight occupy a corner room in the main building, in rather close quarters, but with space between the beds, and for tables in the middle of the room. The water closets and baths are such as were provided for former patients. The officers are permitted to bathe once a week without charge, but by agreeing to pay 6 M. a month (for extra coal and its transportation) the British officers have been able to arrange for daily baths.

The catering is done by the proprietor of a hotel in Coburg (there is no officers' committee), and officers pay 1·85 M. per day for their meals, the charge being higher than usual owing to the distance which everything must be transported by waggon. The canteen is well stocked (rather high prices, fixed by the authorities), although sugar and various other articles are not on sale at present. The officers receive

Digitized by Google

their parcels regularly, and no complaint was made respecting incoming or outgoing correspondence.

A cinematograph has been installed in the large "pump-room" ("Sprudenhalle"), and gymnastic apparatus, purchased by the prisoners, is about to be put up. The officers are permitted to take walks in the surrounding country, which is very attractive. The air is delicious.

At present the officers are compelled to be in their quarters at 8·30 P.M., but the commandant said that a later hour would now be fixed. The commandant also said, in response to the wish expressed by the British officers, that arrangements would be made to have more frequent opportunity for walks in the country. For a short time these walks had been suspended owing to an attempt which had been made by an officer prisoner, not an Englishman. The camp had been inspected by Prince Max of Baden two days prior to my visit.

June 16, 1916.

No. 44.

Mr. Page to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June* 28.)

THE American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, a copy of a letter he has received from the Embassy at Berlin, dated the 20th instant, together with copies of a report on the camp at Brandenburg, where nine British civilians (seamen) are interned.

American Embassy, London, June 27, 1916.

Enclosure 1 in No. 44.

Mr. Gerard to Mr. Page.

Sir, *American Embassy, Berlin, June* 20, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith triplicate copies of a report made by Dr. Ohnesorg, Surgeon, United States Navy, of a visit paid by me in his company on the 19th instant to the camp at Brandenburg, where nine British civilians (seamen) are interned.

I have, &c.
JAMES W. GERARD.

Enclosure 2 in No. 44.

Dr. Ohnesorg to Mr. Gerard.

Sir, *Berlin, June* 19, 1916.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith a report covering a visit of inspection, made by your Excellency and myself, to the camp for prisoners of war at Brandenburg on the 19th instant. As this camp contained only nine British, a systematic and complete inspection was not made, our attention being entirely directed to that portion of the camp where they were confined.

Previous Reports.—This is the first visit made by any member of the Embassy to this camp.

Number of Prisoners.—There are at present about 2,000 Russian prisoners of war and only nine British, all civilians, interned here, viz. :—

Captain G. W. Thornhill.
Mate J. J. Jones.
1st Engineer G. Peacock.
2nd Engineer Chas. Gaiger.
Deck hand S. G. Inch.
Deck hand Samuel Moore.
Deck hand Clifford A. Castle.
Trimmer T. Clift.
Cook Davy Dudding.

Digitized by Google

Description of Camp.—The buildings and estate of an abandoned terra-cotta factory are utilised as the site for this camp. The main buildings are used as offices, storehouses, canteen, and kitchen. Some of the Russian prisoners are quartered in long one-storied brick buildings which had been used for the manufacturing purposes in question, the remainder being housed in large wooden barracks.

Barracks.—The nine British civilians are quartered together, and apart from other prisoners, in a large, clean, well-lighted, and ventilated barrack in the isolation compound. They are supplied with wooden bedsteads, good straw mattresses, and clean and sufficient bed covering.

Kitchen.—The usual type of camp kitchen was seen, none of the British being employed therein.

Food.—Breakfast consists of coffee and bread, and the midday meal of a vegetable or of a vegetable and meat soup. The British said that occasionally they were given a small piece of cooked meat with potatoes. The composition of the evening meal is various; but coffee is served and occasionally soup, and at this meal the daily ration of bread is issued. In addition the prisoners are given a small piece of cheese or sausage.

Canteen.—A small canteen with a very limited stock was part of the camp equipment.

Post and Parcel Office.—None of the British are employed here. Since their capture (26th April) they had not received any parcels or letters from relatives or friends. The usual privileges in regard to correspondence are permitted them.

Sanitary Arrangements.—The camp has excellently appointed bathing and disinfection arrangements. Forty showers are supplied with adjoining dressing rooms. Weekly baths are obligatory. Adjoining the bathing establishment is the camp laundry, with electrically driven centrifuges and hand machines for washing. Personal washing as well as all of the camp wash is laundried here.

The latrines are of the trench type, housed over and satisfactory.

Medical Attendance and Hospital.—A hospital is placed at one end of the camp in a separate compound. This was not visited.

Work.—No work is required of the British civilians except the ordinary cleaning of the barrack and compound.

Clothing.—The British were well clothed, but needed additional underwear.

Complaints.—None of the British had any complaint to make concerning their treatment or housing. They all complained of their isolation and of the food served.

General Observations and Remarks.—These nine British civilians formed the crew of the trawler "Horus" of Grimsby. They were captured on the 26th April, 1916, taken to Wilhelmshaven, and after four days sent to the prisoner of war camp at Dulmen. On the 1st June, 1916, they were transferred to Brandenburg. As stated above, they had been isolated since their arrival at the camp, but the reason of this was not entirely clear. The commandant stated that it was done under orders from the Inspection of the Army Corps, to which the camp belonged. The isolation consisted in their confinement in this one compound, and no intercourse was permitted with any of the other prisoners of war. A sentry was stationed without their barrack.

They all appeared in good physical condition, and stated that they were in good health.

I have, &c.
KARL OHNESORG.

No. 45.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and, with reference to his Excellency's note of the 27th June enclosing copies of a report by Dr. Ohnesorg on the internment camp at Brandenburg, has the honour to request that his thanks may be conveyed to the United States Ambassador at Berlin and to Dr. Ohnesorg for the trouble they have taken in connection with the report.*

Sir E. Grey does not quite understand from the report whether the fact that the British prisoners of war interned at Brandenburg have not received any parcels or

* See No. 44.

Digitized by Google

letters is accounted for by their having been transferred to that place comparatively recently, or whether they are not allowed to receive them. He would therefore be greatly obliged if Mr. Gerard could be requested to remove this doubt at his Excellency's early convenience, and also to ascertain the reason for the isolation of these particular British prisoners and for the refusal of the German authorities to allow them to receive parcels and letters if it is the case that such prohibition exists.

Foreign Office, June 30, 1916.

No. 46.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Page.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the United States Ambassador, and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency's note of the 27th ultimo, enclosing copies of a report by Mr. Jackson on the officer prisoners of war camp at Colberg, Saxe-Meiningen.*

Sir E. Grey would be greatly obliged if his thanks could be conveyed to the United States Ambassador at Berlin and to Mr. Jackson for the trouble which they have taken in connection with this report.

Foreign Office, July 3, 1916.

* See No. 43.

Digitized by Google

MISCELLANEOUS. No. 26 (1916).

FURTHER Correspondence with the United States Ambassador respecting the Treatment of British Prisoners of War and Interned Civilians in Germany.

[In continuation of "Miscellaneous, No. 16 (1916)": Cd. 8235.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty. August 1916.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google